FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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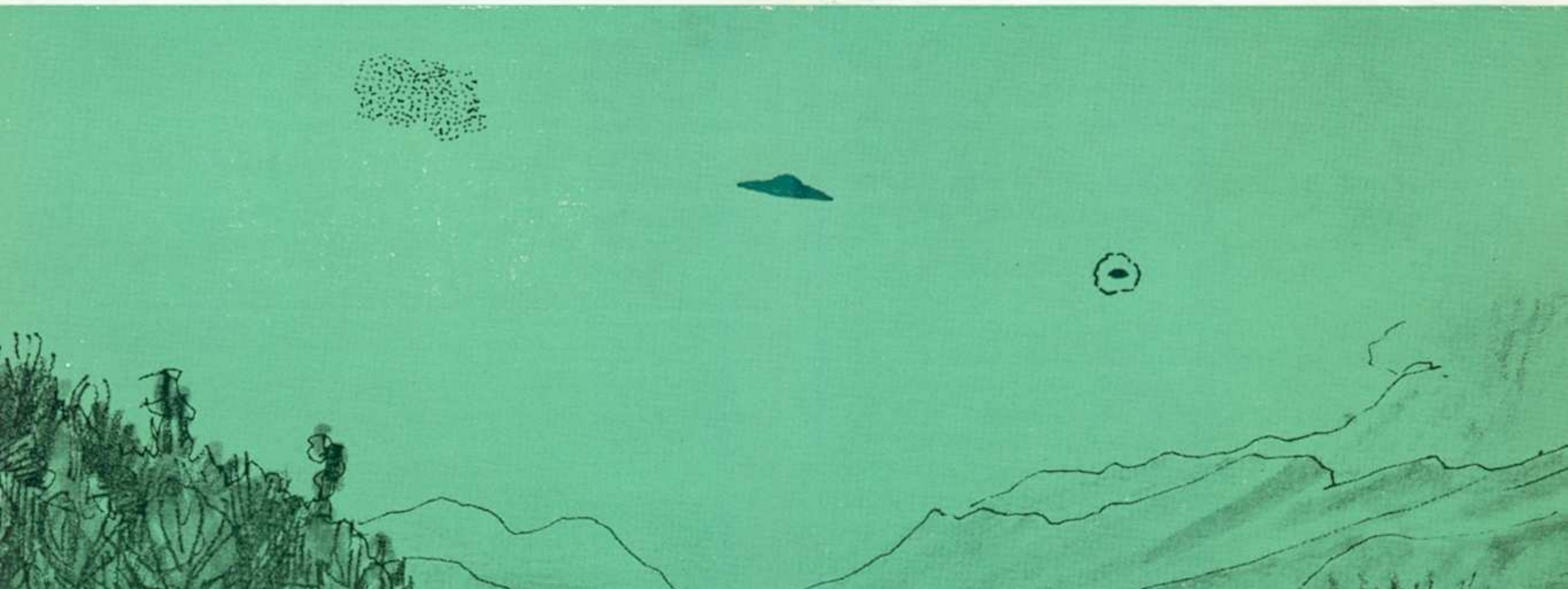

Beside the slopes of the Himalaya mountains . . .

A BIZARRE UFO "BALLET"

See page 3

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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CONTENTS

The Annapurna-Pokhara UFO "Ballet": Charles Bowen 3
Aurora Spaceman—R.I.P.?: Eileen Buckle 7
Rejuvenation follows close Encounter with UFO: Pedro Romaniuk.. .. 10
The E.T. concept in History: Lucius Farish 14
Taize: a case right out of the ordinary: J. Tyrode.. 16
A few words about Taize: F. Lagarde 22
These cunning British: the Truth at last! Gordon Creighton .. 23
Another look at the Moon and Mars: Kenneth C. Bayman .. 27
Are UFOs "Flying" Laser Generators? Dr. Bernard E. Finch .. 28
World Round-up 30
Mail Bag 32

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CHAMPION OF PROGRESS

ELSEWHERE in these pages we have printed an article by Gordon Creighton from which readers may learn something of the official attitudes to UFO reports which prevailed in 1955. The much-vaunted AVRO (Canada) project for a "flying saucer" was heading inexorably for the scrap-heap, yet according to the magazine *Time* of November 7, 1955, Mr. Donald A. Quarles, the United States Secretary for the Air Force, had uttered "a few well-guarded words" about a similar craft which was to be tested by the Ryan Aeronautical Co.

On re-reading the *Time* article, it is difficult now to avoid the conclusion that the sole purpose of the announcement was to facilitate still further the official policy of debunking UFO reports and reporters. Project Blue Book's "meticulous study" (hardly in accord with Dr. Hynek's recent description) was also commended by Mr. Quarles.

That same year, 1955, had also witnessed the launching of *Flying Saucer Review*, and after the first issue, a quarterly, the magazine has appeared regularly every two months. The fact that it has survived, and improved is, understandably, not good enough for some folk, for there are those who bewail the fact that no "progress" has been made in the subject. This, we suggest, is far from the truth. Admittedly the official debunkers are still employed, and "spokesmen," when cornered about a case, still trot out glib assurances that the relevant records have been destroyed. But the true worth of the Reports of recent American official investigations has been exposed to the public gaze—or at least to the gaze of those of the public, including the scientific community, who are prepared to look—by scientists like Dr. David Saunders and Dr. J. Allen Hynek, who were associated with the investigations. Furthermore, despite the Condon Report, despite Blue Book, and despite the "Man from the Ministry," UFOs continue to be reported around the globe, and *Flying Saucer Review*, and kindred journals, continue to publish the record.

That, it would seem, is but small progress after more than eighteen years of endeavour. Nevertheless, when one considers the forces ranged against progress of any sort towards an understanding of the UFO problem, and not forgetting all those people who clasp at any straw—seemingly without reason, and almost as if it were their bounden duty—to oppose and thwart that progress, then survival linked with general improvement must be acknowledged at least as an achievement worthy of note. Fortunately there is more to it than that, for that achievement has, in its own small way, contributed to great advances that are being made, in at least one country, towards a sane appraisal of UFO reports.

The country where it is all happening is France, the land of Descartes and the lovers of logic; the land that has produced the lion's share of the foremost investigators and researchers over the last 20 years—names like Michel, Vallée, Lagarde, Fouéré, Misraki, Thirouin, Mesnard, Tyrode, are but a few that leap readily to mind: the land where the Gendarmerie Nationale, equipped with an excellent standard questionnaire form, treats UFO reports

very seriously. By themselves these facts are commendable, yet progress marches quickly forward in France for yet another reason. That reason is an important scientist, the astronomer Dr. Pierre Guérin of the Paris Observatory at Meudon, and Maître de Recherches at the French National Council for Scientific Research. Dr. Guérin is currently making something of an impact in scientific, and other, circles.

The Guérin interest in UFO reports has been well known to the FSR team for some years, for he has been closely associated with the continuing investigation of a number of "classic" cases. It was not until around 1971, however, that he finally "went public." We understand that he has lectured to groups of French and international astronomers on the subject, but the most recent bombshell has been a pair of articles by Dr. Guérin and his colleague Jacques Lévy, Astronome Titulaire de l'Observatoire de Paris, published in the important magazine *Sciences et Avenir*, in September 1972, with the cover title: *Des Astronomes ouvrent le Dossier des Objets Volants Non-Identifiés*.

Lévy's contribution is entitled "The UFOs are in the wind," while Guérin's appears under the heading "There *is* a UFO problem," and is a lengthy review of the subject. Here are a few selected observations from the Guérin article:

★ "The weakness of the scientists' position in negating the existence of UFOs is that they have not studied the evidence put forward by those who say they *do* exist: all they have done is to satisfy themselves by listening to those who say they *don't* exist."

★ "Personal opinions don't solve problems in science: problems in science are solved by careful analysis of the facts, so why isn't this done with UFO reports?"

★ "The Condon Report had no effect on UFOs, which continue to be seen although the French Press no longer reports them: only a few specialised journals in the world report the innumerable cases."

★ "Dr. Condon is said to have remarked once: 'I'll believe in UFOs when they bring me one in my laboratory.' He should have said: 'I'll be able to study a UFO scientifically when they bring me one in my laboratory.'"

★ "The evidence is overwhelming—if you will look at it . . . around the world we have over 1,500 cases where UFOs have been seen on or near the ground."

★ "One of the stumbling blocks to acceptance of UFO reports is that we all think extraterrestrial voyages would call for huge craft and most UFO reports are of small craft. But this is probably because we have not yet found the new laws of Nature that would make such small craft possible for such trips. The voyages they make are in fact probably not voyages in the sense that this word is used by us when we apply the term to our own 4-dimensional continuum of our contemporary Physics."

★ "Naturally their craft aren't going to look remotely like our rockets! They will be something totally new to us, *magic*, just as our craft are magic to the Papuans."

★ "The truth is starting to assert itself. Today I see a number of French astronomers—admittedly a limited number, but a growing number, especially among the young ones, but there are older ones too—who now adopt, in public, a totally open position, even a frankly positive position, regarding the existence of UFOs. Only a few are now unconditionally against . . ."

★ "The overall problem of the UFOs can never be truly comprehended unless our own Science one day becomes capable itself of proposing physical models that can account for the observed phenomena. It is not possible for us to know whether our Science will ever reach that point. At any rate, it is still very far from it at present."

Of all this Aimé Michel writes to say:

"In France, this article by Guérin has completely reversed the position in just a few months! I am not saying that everybody now 'believes in UFOs.' What I am saying is that people now know that real scientists are asking themselves the question, and that this question is not a stupid one. Guérin is very active and very aggressive, and he lets nothing go by in the press without putting them right when they need to be put right, and so much so that now nobody any longer dares to jeer . . ."

So, while Professor Guérin is busily *infecting* French scientists, we must hope that the infection will spread to their colleagues elsewhere in the world. In the light of this it will be agreed that very real progress has been made, and that there is an overwhelming difference between the present state of affairs and those prevailing in 1955. While an enormous documentation of cases, and of patterns and types of activity now exists—the work of "amateurs" frequently officially derided as "cultists"—the scientific fraternity is rapidly becoming aware that UFOs present a very real problem.

A large part of this significant advance is due to the persistence and the drive of Pierre Guérin, a sturdy champion in the van of a small but distinguished band of international scientists who are demanding a rational and unemotional approach to, in particular, the huge number—and this is most important—of Class I (*on or near the ground*) UFO reports.

NEWS ABOUT FSR SPECIAL ISSUES . . .

No. 2, **"Beyond Condon"** is now out-of-print.
No. 3 **"UFO Percipients"** (price 40p or $1.20)
and
No. 4 **"UFOs in Two Worlds"** (price 60p or $1.75)
are still available.

THE ANNAPURNA-POKHARA UFO "BALLET"

Charles Bowen

TWO young Britons, Stephen Gill and Roderick Baird, both aged 20 and both of them "victims" of an adventurous wanderlust and a healthy desire to escape from claustrophobic Western life, met, by strange chance, in Kathmandu in March 1972. They elected to go trekking among the mountains, and this trip led them directly to one of the most interesting UFO experiences of recent years. Furthermore, they obtained a photograph to support their claim.

Why should it have been by *strange chance* that they met in Kathmandu? Solely because they had known one another in England—where together they had been pupils at a well-known public school—yet, having left school and gone their separate ways, neither one of them had any prior knowledge that the other would be visiting remote and entrancing Nepal.

I learned of their experience in the autumn of 1972 when, after he had traced my telephone number, Stephen Gill arranged to meet me at 21 Cecil Court. He told me very briefly about the unusual UFO incident, and gave me an en-print colour photograph which showed little more than a striking mountain and lake-side scene. It was arranged that when Roderick Baird, who lives in Oxfordshire, could pay a visit, we would meet at Stephen Gill's home in Surrey. Enlargements of the photograph would have been obtained by that time, and I would be able to interview them at length.

It must have been a frustrating experience for Stephen Gill to try to arrange that second meeting: on at least two occasions I was unable to meet them, and it was not until Whit Sunday this year that we finally succeeded in getting together.

I asked Stephen why he had decided in the first place to seek me out. His answer was, simply, that he had taken *Flying Saucer Review* for a couple of years while still at school: so it was established that he had some prior knowledge of the subject, as also had Roddy Baird—although to a lesser degree—through having borrowed a few of the magazines.

The witnesses

Stephen Gill, a student of agriculture and horticulture and, at the time of writing due, to leave for a visit to East Africa, had been to the Kingdom of Nepal in 1971, largely for the purpose of assisting in work to help Tibetan refugees. He returned to England, and went up to Oxford University to study Chinese. While he enjoyed the course, he found that after leading a spartan life in Nepal he was unable to come to terms with the "comparatively lush" life at Oxford. He left the University after one term and, on February 21, 1972, began the return journey to Nepal by a combination of hitch-hiking and public transport. He arrived in Kathmandu on March 17, 1972, and started to search for a job teaching English.

Shortly after his arrival he met his former schoo friend in the Nepalese capital.

Roderick Baird, now working in forestry, had left school in 1971. He flew out to India in February 1972 and quickly made his way to Kathmandu. The purpose of his visit? To see the Himalaya Mountains, and to visit the places where his grandparents—and his father—had once lived during their service with the Indian Army.

Soon after they met, Stephen and Roderick decided to go trekking, and they walked until quite close to the Chinese (Tibetan) border at Jomosom, a long way up the course of the Kali Gandaki, said to flow in the deepest gorge in the world.*

After trekking back from Jomosom, Stephen and Roderick rested up for two or three days in the little town of Pokhara.

The UFO incident

Late in the afternoon of April 18, Stephen Gill and Roddy Baird walked down for a swim in the Phewa Tal—beside the far end of which stands the king's summer palace. They had no watches, but Roddy did have his Kodak Instamatic camera with him (all he could tell me of this was that it was an "early model"). At a time which they jointly estimated as about 40-45 minutes before sunset, they had finished swimming and, fit and very fresh, were standing by the lakeside drying off, when Stephen was suddenly aware of something happening that was unusual. He turned to Roddy:

"D'you see that bird migration?"

Phase 1 of observation

A swarm of dots, massed in a fluidly moving "blodge", was seen by Stephen as he looked across the lake. It was travelling from left to right (approximately South to North), and was in view for no more than 5 seconds. Roddy Baird saw nothing. The swarm appeared fairly low over the mountain-dominated horizon, above the ridge of hills which they estimated to be near Birethanti.

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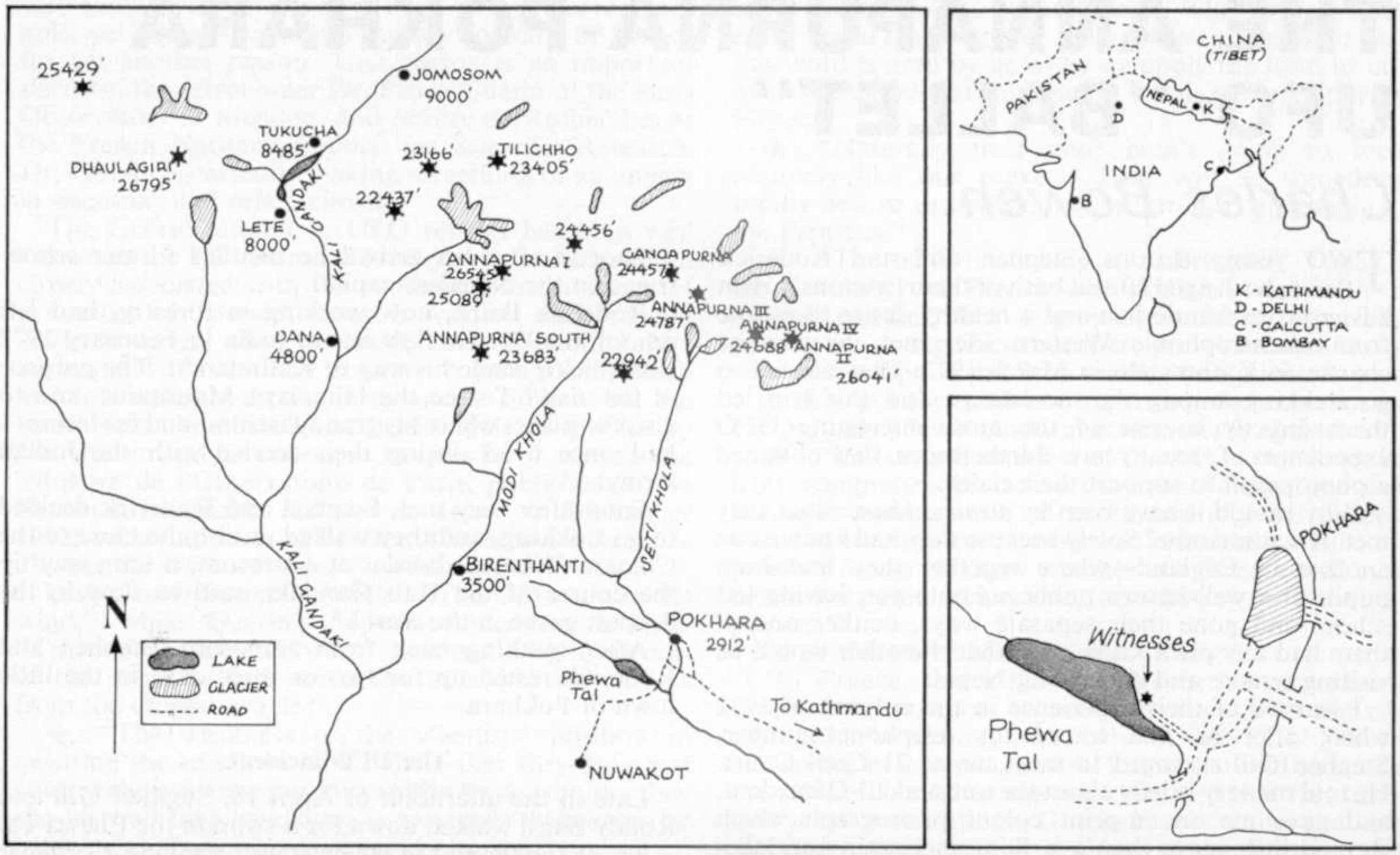
* At Lete, for example, the river is about 8,000 feet above sea level, and the "wall" to the West rises to the great peak of Dhaulagiri at 26,796 feet, while on the other side are the flanks of the mighty Annapurna Himal (heights are quoted from the Nepalese trekking map lent to me by Stephen Gill). It was along the Kali Gandaki route that Maurice Herzog led his 1950 French expedition in their approach march prior to the assault on Annapurna I, and it was back down the same route that they made their nightmare return journey after Herzog and Lachenal, having conquered the peak—the first ever climbed at over 8,000 metres—fell victims of frostbite.



Left: the region trekked by S. Gill and R. Baird from Pokhara, via Birethanti and the Kali Gandaki to Jomosom, and return, showing the Phewa Tal and its position relative to the Annapurna Himal and the Dhaulagiri Himal (heights of main peaks shown in feet) and the larger rivers and torrents. Right: the position of Nepal relative to India and China, and (below) detail of the sighting location. Maps and cover drawing by Pauline Bowen

Phase 2 of observation

Suddenly, about one minute later, Roderick who had been looking idly across the lake, asked:

"Do you mean that thing up there?"

He indicated a group of loosely-moving dots which appeared "higher up" in the sky.

Phase 3 of observation, now continuous

There was now an urgent debate. Could it have been a swarm of bees? Hardly . . . far too far away for bees to be seen. Were they birds?

Easily identifiable birds were observed as they flew in the distance and they looked completely different to the "components" of the swarms.

Newly arrived swarms were now performing a bizarre aerial "ballet," but the choreography was complicated, so many movements being involved that it was difficult to follow them. The stages of development were:

Stage I: matter collecting†

(a) "Bee" swarms, or "Bird migrations," which appeared black to the eye, were seen making some 9 or 10 appearances.

(b) Definite horizontal "vic" formations seen moving in both directions, left to right, and *vice versa*. Two or three manifestations of this kind.

Stage II: matter condensing

The dots in the swarms next began to close in on one another, and the overall shapes of the swarms were changing all the time, gradually "solidifying" into conventional upturned "saucer shapes" seen sideways-on, and thereafter at every possible angle—i.e. elliptical, near circular and so on—but never as overhead disc shapes.

The "solidified" objects were incredibly versatile in their movements in the air, hovering, slowly moving, and accelerating alarmingly. Stephen Gill recalled one of these objects: from the act of "solidification" of the dots at what seemed to be a distance of some 20 miles, the object approached in an undulating, zooming—and then level—flight, until it reached a position over the far end of the lake in some 2 to 3 seconds.

No detail was seen on any of these "solidified" shapes—no "portholes," for example—and there was no noise.

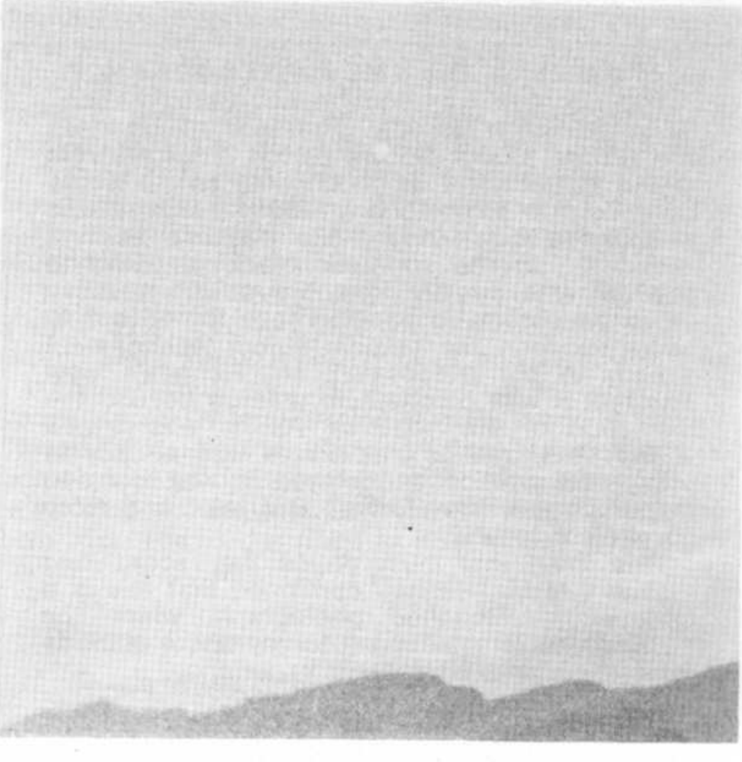
There was some light about the objects: the sun was still shining on the snow peaks, so perhaps the light could have been reflected sunlight, but neither witness would commit himself to saying that the objects were not self-luminous. Most of them were seen, however, as lead-grey in colour.

Roddy Baird alone saw two small disc shapes converging with, and merging into, a larger one: it happened swiftly, but he remembers surprise that the size of the larger object did not seem to alter.

Stage III: dispersion of solid objects

The large objects of "upturned saucer" shape were each in view for an estimated 15 to 20 seconds, and

Above: the photograph, as printed by Percy Hennell in black and white from the colour negative. The cloud-covered wall of Annapurna South rises in the right background.
Below: detail, showing the 'object', taken from the original colour enlargement.



then, at the same rate as they had "solidified" so they effected "dispersion." This dispersion was effected *without* any return to the "bee swarm" or "bird migration" configurations. The saucer shapes appeared just to fade, each leaving behind it a pronounced smoke ring.

Stephen watched this process closely in two or three instances: the "smoke" began to appear around the edge of the object which then disappeared as the smoke ring was forming. Each smoke ring, said Roddy, remained in view for an estimated 20 seconds; for 5 to 10 seconds in perfect elliptical, or even a round shape, then fading while definitely changing shape. Then another repeat of the "aerial ballet" would start up in another part of the sky to distract attention.

* * * * *

After watching a succession of these appearances and disappearances, Roddy Baird suddenly remembered he had his camera, loaded with colour film of which a few shots remained. They went back from the water's edge to the place where they had left their clothes: the one

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† Stephen Gill's own headings for the three main stages of the display are given.

thing that mattered was to take photographs of the spectacle.

The method employed was for Roddy to aim the camera, by using the viewfinder, at one particular object, and for Stephen, who was watching the changing process, to give the signal to press the trigger: it seemed there might be some small delay involved, but it was the best they could do in the circumstances. Stephen shouted when the "solidified saucer" stage was clearly observed: by the time Roddy's eyes were taken from the camera the object had already transformed into a smoke ring. Both witnesses were convinced that there was at least one other object in view in the sky to the left (South) as they took their picture.

They only had the opportunity to take one photograph, for the continuing aerial gyrations were moving away to the West, and gradually being lost to view. As the two young men walked away from the lake, the sky was clear.

Later that night they scanned the sky from the roof of the hostel in Pokhara, but saw nothing. Next day they returned to the same place by the lake, but again saw nothing: soon after that they departed for Kathmandu.

* * * * *

When the enlarged prints were made of their photograph, both Stephen and Roddy, who were expecting to see the image of a dark object, were surprised to see instead a glowing image. Perhaps the delay in pressing the trigger had been such that they had obtained for themselves a picture of the Stage III of the "ballet," in other words, the process of "dispersion." When we looked closely at the enlargement, using a magnifying glass, it appeared that Roddy had captured a picture of the moment when the smoke was beginning to form around the perimeter of "something." It was decided there and then to send the film to Mr. Percy Hennell for examination.

* * * * *

I feel that I can make little comment about this detailed and objective report. As we sat in the lounge of a charming country house, looking out over picturesque Surrey countryside, I was impressed by the sincerity of the two quietly-spoken young men, by their steady avoidance of sensational exaggeration, and by the consistency of their story under repeated questioning. Again, they had waited with great patience for many months to describe to me what had happened before their eyes over the beautiful valley of Pokhara against a backdrop of the high mountain wall of the Himalaya. Their report, it seemed, was altogether too fantastic and unusual in its detail to have been "made up," and there was the photograph too.

As I drove home I could not help but wonder whether or not these young men, standing on the fringe of Yeti country, had witnessed the materialisation and dematerialisation of a something—call it the UFO Phenomenon—that is permitting itself to be seen, and perhaps comprehended, in gentle stages.

POSTSCRIPT

When Stephen Gill returned from Africa South of the Sahara, where he had been to view the eclipse of the sun (not East Africa, as stated above), he was shown the proofs of this article. He considered the use of the word "wanderlust" to be incorrect: he said he had gone back to Nepal to take up a teaching job, and, after meeting Roderick Baird, the trek to Jomosom was undertaken to pass the time while waiting for a post to become vacant.

Again, both he and Roderick Baird considered I had devoted too much space to describing them, and how they had met in Katmandu.

On the first point I make no comment. On the second point I beg to differ: it is as essential to learn something of the backgrounds of the witnesses, and how they came to be where they were at the time of the experience, as it is to read their reports. If Mrs. Brown sees a luminous 'something' glide past her bedroom window, and wakes her husband to see the object that has landed in a field nearby, or if Dr. Doolittle is driving his car home after a late call to the local hospital when it is stopped, presumably by a glowing object hovering overhead, nobody is surprised that these witnesses should be where they were at the time of their experiences, their credibility is established, and it should be relatively easy to uncover any corroborative evidence that is going. When two young Britons claim that they saw such a strange spectacle after taking a swim in a remote lake in the shadow of the Himalayas, and subsequently offer the story for publication, then investigators and researchers, and other readers of this journal, are bound to want to know why they were there, and what manner of people they are. It should be remembered that witnesses and their reports are the only material which we have.

COMMENT ON THE PHOTOGRAPH

The negative was sent to Mr. Percy Hennell for examination in July. Pressure of business and private affairs did not permit him to devote to the examination as much time as he would have liked to have done. In fact he was unable to make a black and white negative as first intended, so he printed black and white enlargements directly from the colour negative on to panchromatic paper. These turned out to be larger than the original colour enlargement already in our possession: Mr. Hennell's view was that it was pointless to enlarge beyond the resolution of the negative. As he was unwell at the time, and as this article was already in print, and publication delayed it was decided to pursue the study further at a later and more convenient time.

One thing that must go on the record, and that is that Mr. Hennell confirmed that this is a completely untouched photograph, which, he says, seems a small thing to say about such an interesting and fascinating experience.

C.B.

AURORA SPACEMAN—R.I.P?

Eileen Buckle

TO be really newsworthy, a UFO story has to be somewhat unique. Most UFO reports tend to be too commonplace to hit the headlines of any but the local press, but now and then (often in the "silly season"), something happens which fires the imagination of the national press and may even spread abroad. At the time of writing (early June) a welter of newscuttings and reports is being received from our correspondents in America, and from readers the world over, on account of two bizarre occurrences. Because these happened to take place simultaneously within a mere 75 miles of each other and both smacked distinctly of science fiction, they were frequently linked together in the same news items. One could only at a far stretch of the imagination associate one of these with ufology—biology would seem a more likely category, although there was once a case where giant puff balls were associated with a UFO landing.

The "Blob"

In early May, a "pulsating, cancerous blob of matter which mysteriously oozed from the ground, defying explanation" appeared in Mrs. Marie Harris's back-yard at Garland, Texas. It was "reddish with thick bubbles on top and blackish mucus inside and appeared to bleed red and purplish material." Despite several attempts to kill it, by cutting it up, spraying it with poison and crushing it, this biological curiosity merely reappeared bigger than before, increasing from the size of an oatmeal "cookie" to that of 16 oatmeal "cookies" in two weeks. By three weeks it had doubled in size yet again and a Dallas newspaper ran the story. The "Blob" promptly died. But it wasn't long before so much attention had been given to it in the news media that, for a time it is said, the public's mind was diverted thankfully from Watergate. According to a New York newsman: "It's been a long time since we've had a response like this to a story—any story."

The inevitable "outer space" theory for the origin of the "Blob" evolved, but the story has a mundane ending. Some scientists came along and identified it as a common slime mould, a lower type of fungus. According to Dr. Fannie Hurst, a botanist at Baylor University, it could have been a fuligo, a compound of spores which group into a large protoplasm which feeds on bacteria and is usually seen in the yellow, pulsating form Mrs. Harris described to newsmen (*International Herald Tribune*, June 1, 1973).

Plan to exhume the remains of a "spaceman"

If officials of the International UFO Bureau (IUFO) obtain permission to open a grave in the village of Aurora, Texas, whereby they hope to prove the remains to be those of a spaceman, perhaps the result would be an equal anticlimax. According to newspaper reports, Mr. Hayden Hewes, director of IUFO, has already embarked on legal means to obtain an exhumation order, after checking the grave with metal detectors and gathering facts for three months. As a result of the publicity given his project, Aurora, which has a population of about 100, has been besieged, we are told, by flying saucer enthusiasts, reporters, and the plain curious. Residents stood vigil round the grave to prevent the threatened exhumation, which the Cemetery Association is pledged to prevent.

Is there positive evidence of a "spaceship" having crashed at Aurora in 1897, and the mangled body of its pilot having been buried in the grave in question? The story is widely discounted as a hoax, yet some interesting facts have lately been uncovered to suggest there might be something in it after all. First, let us look back at the newspapers of April 19, 1897, which reported that "about 6 o'clock this morning early risers in Aurora were astonished by the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing through the country."

The story which appeared in all the papers was written by an Aurora cotton buyer named F. E. Hayden. It was said that the airship collided with a windmill tower and that the flying machine was shattered in a terrible explosion, scattering metallic debris over three acres, wrecking the windmill and destroying Judge Proctor's flower garden. Hayden said that the body of the pilot was badly disfigured but a prominent astronomer and Army Signal Corps officer, T. J. Weems, happened to be in Aurora and declared that the pilot was "not an inhabitant of this world. The town is full of people today who are viewing the wreck and gathering specimens of the strange metal from the debris. The pilot's funeral will take place at noon today . . ."

It has recently been stated by Frank X. Tolbert, a journalist from the *Dallas Morning News*, that on investigation, the aforementioned T. J. Weems turns out to have been the village blacksmith, and thus suspicion is cast on the truthfulness of the report. Nevertheless, UFO enthusiasts have, with some success, combed the area for tangible evidence that a crash had occurred, and urged residents of Aurora to search their homes, barns and storage places for clues to the incident. An article in *The Dallas Times Herald* written by aviation writer Bill Case, quotes the renowned Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University: "Now that scientific investigation makes it highly improbable that the report is a hoax as has been reported so many times, we feel the people of the area may be able to locate

information and physical evidence gathered and kept by their fathers and grandfathers."

A sample of "unusual metal"

In another article by Bill Case in *The Dallas Times Herald* of May 31, it is said that two of three laboratories testing pieces of metal recovered from the site of the alleged UFO crash have reported they have found one sample "highly unusual." A physicist, Dr. Tom Gray of the North Texas State University, tested four samples which had been recovered near a well at the Brawley Oates Farm site by Dr. David Redden and a graduate student of the University using metal detectors. He said:

"'Three samples have properties and content common to metals of this area, but one sample may require much more investigation.'

"He said the sample looks as if it has been melted and splattered on the ground.

"'However, the most intriguing thing is that it is made up primarily of iron, but is not magnetic,' he explained.

"'First analysis shows it to be about 75 per cent iron, and 25 per cent zinc, with some other trace elements.

"'But it lacks properties common to iron, such as being magnetic,' Dr. Gray said. 'It is also shiny and malleable, instead of being dull and brittle like iron.

"'Most alloys which contain iron are magnetic,' he added.

"Dr. Gray emphasised he did not mean his comments to indicate the sample was of earthly or extraterrestrial origin. 'But its physics stir my curiosity as a scientist,' he said. [*non*-earthly?—ED.]

"'This sample may require much more investigation,' he added. 'If it proves to be a rather strange beast, then a great deal more study will have to be done.'

"Gray said his reports will be sent to Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chief consultant for MUFON (Midwest UFO Network) and the nation's leading UFO expert at Northwestern University.

"In a second report on seven samples submitted by *Dallas Times Herald* reporters to one of the nation's largest aircraft manufacturers, scientists said 'one of the seven different pieces submitted for examination is highly unusual.'

"They said the sample also was shiny, non-magnetic and tests so far show unique properties. A spokesman said, 'We are giving this a complete run-down, including spectroscopic tests and feedback run-through in a computer bank of all known metals.'

"A preliminary report of this collection of samples should be ready Friday. A third set identical to this given to the American Aircraft Co. has been sent to the National Research Institute in Ottawa, Canada.

"'We are seeking independent evaluations of the metals from as many highly reliable sources as possible under the circumstances,' a MUFON spokesman told *The Times Herald* Thursday. 'If the results indicate at least one of the metals is considered definitely unusual by the scientists we would then have scientific evidence on which to base a request to exhume the body of the reported UFO pilot.'

"Using metal detectors, reporters and MUFON investigators have located a remote grave in the country cemetery from which they receive the same decibel readings as they did from the sample of metal Dr. Gray and the aircraft company scientists say they find 'puzzling' and unusual."

Surviving Eyewitnesses' accounts

Perhaps the most convincing evidence that an unidentified flying object crashed at Aurora in 1897 came to light as a result of the recent search for witnesses and additional information about the supposed airship crash by UFO investigators. Three witnesses to the event came forward. Charlie Stevens, aged 86, of Aurora, described to *The Times Herald* how his father, Jim Stevens, was an eyewitness to the UFO crash. Mary Evans, a 91-year-old woman, in a UPI report has this to say:

"That crash certainly caused a lot of excitement. Many people were frightened. They didn't know what to expect. That was years before we had any regular airplanes or other kind of airships. I was only about 15 at the time and had all but forgotten the incident until it appeared in the newspapers recently. We were living in Aurora at the time, but my mother and father wouldn't let me go with them when they went up to the crash site at Judge Proctor's well. When they returned home they told me how the airship had exploded. The pilot was torn up and killed in the crash. The men of the town who gathered his remains said he was a small man and buried him that same day in Aurora cemetery."

The testimony of the third witness, a "remarkably alert 98-year-old," G. C. Curley, of Lewisville, now a resident of Lewisville Nursing Home, was quoted in *The Times Herald* of June 1, 1973:

"We got the report early in Lewisville. Two friends wanted me to ride over to Aurora to see it. But I had to work. When they got back on horseback that night they told me the airship had been seen coming from the direction of Dallas the day before and had been sighted in the area. But no one knew what it was. They said it hit something near Judge Proctor's well. The airship was destroyed and the pilot in it was badly torn up. My friends said there was a big crowd of sightseers who were picking up pieces of the exploded airship. But no one could identify the metal it was made of. We didn't have metal like that in America at that time. And they said it was difficult to describe the pilot. They saw only a torn up body. They didn't say people were frightened by the crash. They couldn't understand what it was."

The three witnesses' statements thus corroborate the story written by H. E. Hayden in Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers the day after the alleged crash.

Finally, to counterbalance the evidence in favour of the airship crash with some information which puts doubts in the mind, I though it would be of interest to quote from a letter sent to our reader, Mr. Johannes Dettwiler of Ruislip, Middlesex, in response to a written enquiry he addressed to the Aurora Town Council in January, 1972. The questions asked by Mr. Dettwiler were: Did the story about an airship carry some truth, and if so, was the pilot's burial ground preserved to this day? Has a proper investigation been undertaken into this case in the past? This was the reply, dated February 22, 1972:

"Dear Mr. Dettwiler,—This letter will probably

arrive somewhat later than you expected, seeing that your letter of January 7th didn't arrive here at Rhome until February 19th. This delay was due to the fact that your letter was evidently sent to every other post office in Texas before finally arriving here. The reason for this is the fact that Aurora is no longer large enough a town to need a post office and all mail addressed to Aurora is delivered here to Rhome.

"In answer to your first question, as to whether or not this report was true, I regret to say that the entire event was a hoax. This statement I base on the lack of evidence to support such a happening. I have read much about the event and most written accounts of what happened contain very little evidence to support the claims that an airborne craft crashed or even appeared anywhere near Aurora. More important than this however, in talking with citizens of the community who were alive then, I find that all of them report the entire thing as a hoax.

"In answer to your second question, I must admit that no record exists to support the claims that the pilot was buried in the cemetery there, and it only seems logical that if such an event did take place it would have received extra attention in the burial plot records. Also, no gravestone exists that would indicate that there was anyone unusual buried there.

"In answer to your third question, I can find no evidence of any investigation into the matter. The land on which the craft was supposed to have crashed has, however, been dug up, sifted and searched with metal detectors so many times that any strange metal would have been found by now, and none of note has been.

"The question in your mind right now is probably 'If nothing happened, why would it get so much publicity?' In answer to this question, I report that all evidence indicates that the sighting was merely a joke brought on by boredom by employees in a railroad telegraph office near here. You may have read that sightings of similar objects were reported at the same time. Further research will show that these sightings, in Iowa, were also reported by employees of a railroad telegraph office.

"I'm sorry that I am unable to provide any more information than this. You may use this as you please." (Mr. Dettwiler suggests that the writer's name should not be made public to save him receiving unnecessary follow-up letters.)

Will the case for a UFO crash remain inconclusive, like so many others? The thought occurred to me that even if the body was exhumed, it might not be possible to *prove* that it belonged to a spaceman. Perhaps there was a poor old tramp resting near Judge Proctor's well who happened to get in the way.

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REJUVENATION FOLLOWS CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH UFO

An extraordinary case from Argentina

Pedro Romaniuk

Translation from the Spanish by Jane Thomas

THE single witness in this important case, Señor V— M—, is an Argentine citizen, 73 years old. He has had only the first two years of primary schooling, and is a typical *gaucho* from the vast rural areas of Southern Argentina. The place where the sighting occurred lies in the Province of Buenos Aires, and about 500 km. to the south of the Federal Capital of the same name. The names of all concerned are on our files, but the witness, and also the local investigators, have insisted that their names shall not be divulged, and that likewise the name of the place shall not be given. As field-investigator I visited and interrogated the witness myself.*

The Occurrence

On December 30, 1972, at approximately 10.20 p.m., Sr. V.M. was sitting, drinking the national beverage *maté*, about six metres from the little wooden shack in which he lives. He was sitting by a small fire, and had just finished his evening meal. At his side were his dog, a medium-sized animal some four or five years old, and a cat with her three kittens. He was listening to his transistor radio, when suddenly the radio began to fail. He thumped it a few times, thinking that perhaps the batteries were loose, but as it continued to fail, he switched it off.

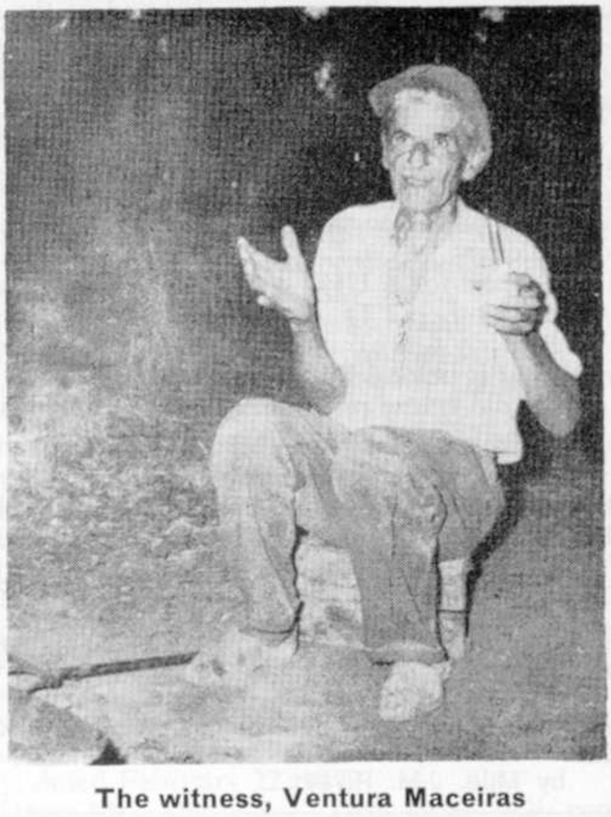
At that moment, he heard a loud humming noise, which he described as "like the noise of angry bees, only ever so much stronger." It was growing steadily louder and, when he realised that it was coming from overhead, he looked up and saw a powerful light, rapidly increasing in intensity and flooding the whole area around. Within the area of the light he could clearly distinguish an enormous object.

As a result of the calculations which we have made when discussing the case with him at the spot and reconstructing the episode, we estimate that the object must have been approximately 20-25 metres in diameter. It was almost exactly right above his head, hanging stationary above the nearby grove of eucalyptus trees, which are some 10-12 metres high. From tubes in the lower central portion of the object (tubes protruding

Señor Pedro Romaniuk is a former Commander with an international air-line. He has been flying since 1942, has a total of over 11,000 hours to his credit, and is a former technical investigator for the Argentine Air Force's Aviation Accidents Investigation Board.

He has done research on nuclear physics, meteorology, parapsychology, and extraterrestrial sciences, and is the author of books on all these subjects. He is today the general director of the Argentine Cosmobiophysical Institute for Extraterrestrial, Paranormal, and Atomic Research. He has given many lectures on the public platform and has given talks on radio and television. In particular, he has presented his theories regarding "Atmospheric, Seismological, and Extraterrestrial Phenomena."

EDITOR.



The witness, Ventura Maceiras

* **Important late note . . .**

In a letter sent in July, after this article had been typeset, Miss Thomas informs us that as a German publication, *UFO Nachtrichten*, has revealed the names of the persons involved, FSR may inform readers that the witness is **Sr. Ventura Maceiras,** and the local government official is **Sr. Angel Petrazinni** of the Municipality of **Tres Arroyos** (see *FSR Case Histories*, Supp. 14, for details of another incident, a month earlier, at Tres Arroyos).—C.B.

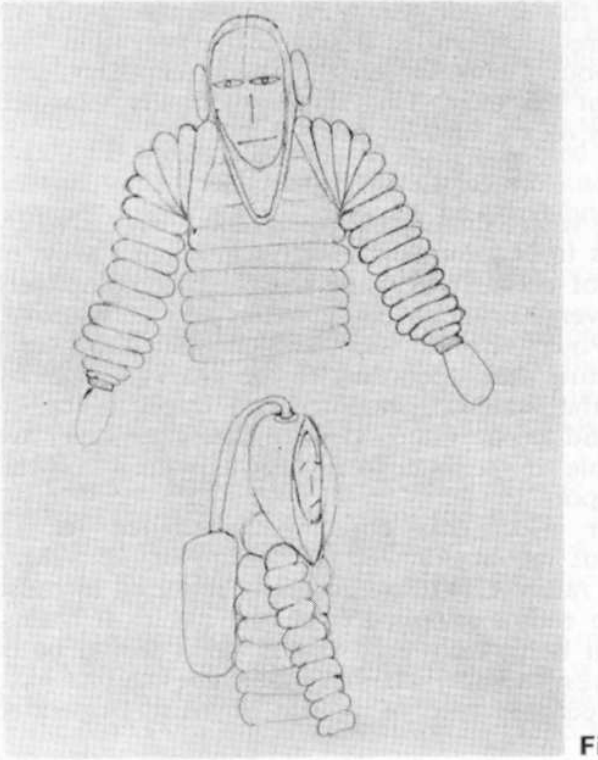


Fig 1.

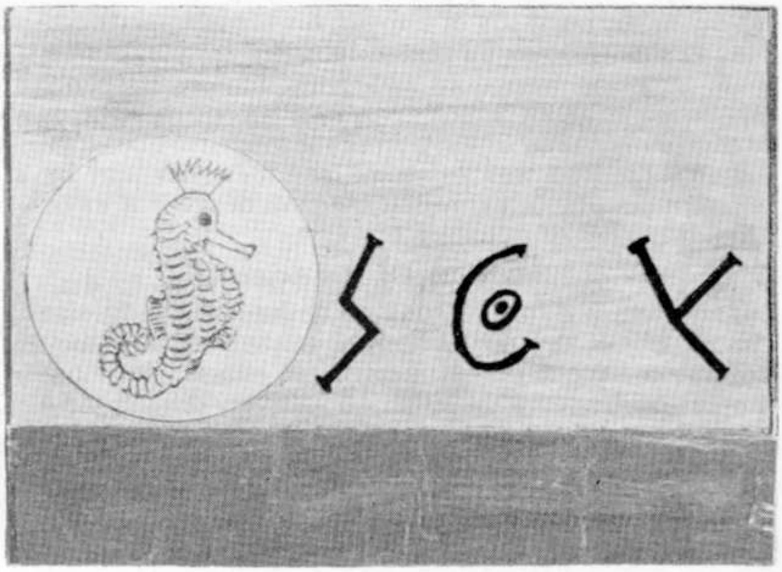


Fig. 2: The "sea-horse" symbol is set on a white, circular background, and the symbols on blue with a golden band below

some 25 or 30 cms. from it) it was emitting sparks, while around it an enormous wheel was constantly spinning.

The witness describes the colour of the object as having been "red-orange turning to purple." In the upper central part of it, the whole of which was intensely illuminated, he could see a spherical cabin with two small windows. At one of these windows was a person, visible only from the waist upwards. This individual was wearing dark grey clothing "made of rolls or cylinders joined together." (Sr. V.M. actually described these "rolls" as "like bananas." See Fig. 1.) The "rolls" gave the appearance of being inflatable, similar to the garb worn by astronauts. On the individual's head was a helmet. From the upper part of the helmet, a tube passed down into a box on his back.

Simultaneously with his sighting of this occupant, a shower of sparks shot from the under-part of the object right in front of where V.M. was sitting, and the object tilted slightly downwards and towards him, so that he now had a full view of the lighted cabin of the stationary craft, and could see that there was also a second occupant, with identical features and clothing, who was looking over the shoulder of the first one. He described the eyes of both of them as slanted. He said the eyes looked fixedly, and gave an impression of depth. The mouth was but a thin line, and he remembered no details of nose or ears.

The object being now in this tilted position, V.M. was able to see moreover that, in addition to the two small windows on this side, through which the occupants were viewing him, there were also two more windows on the further side, and between these other two windows he could see what seemed to be, as he described it, a small flag or banner or emblem, the upper part of which was light blue. On the left was the representation of a sea-horse bearing a crown, and to the right of the sea-horse a number of signs or symbols. The lower part of the banner was golden. (See Figure 2.)

Inside the cabin he could also see a long panel with, as he put it, "a whole lot of instruments and clocks."

Almost simultaneously with the downward tilting movement of the object, a powerful flash of light came from the under-part, blinding the witness temporarily and forcing him to avert his eyes downwards. This flash of light completely enveloped the cat and then vanished at once. Meanwhile the humming noise was growing much louder, and the colour of the object was turning to bluish-green. It began to move forward, away from the eucalyptus trees, and descended still lower until it was no more than from 4 to 6 metres above the ground. At this point V.M. was able to see that in the upper part of the cabin there was a wheel or ring which was spinning very fast.

After that, the object moved off towards the N.E., where the main road is, and where there are high power cables. A strong smell like the smell of sulphur or arnica remained in the air for a few seconds. Then the object disappeared behind a tree-covered mound. It was still flying very low, its colour changing slightly to reddish and then greenish-blue.

The whole observation had lasted for approximately 20 seconds. The sketches of the occupants and of the banner have been drawn in accordance with the witness's descriptions.

The initial reaction of V.M. when he saw the first occupant was to raise his hand with the *maté*-bowl and to call to him to come down and have some *maté* with him. (All this was before he had seen the second occupant.) At no time, so he tells us, did he feel any fear of the object or of its occupants. We should point out that the country folk and the gauchos of Argentina are always noted for their free and easy hospitality. If a visitor arrives they gladly share with him whatever they have, even if they have almost nothing to eat, or their house or hut should be extremely primitive. The witness V.M. does not own a TV set; he is scarcely able to read or write; he has no access whatever to films on this or indeed on any other theme. Serving as the caretaker of a

house on the outskirts of a town, his life is a very poor one. His neighbours all regard him as a simple, honest man, and one who does not drink liquor. His only possession is a cow which gives him two or three litres of milk daily. At all times, during the intensive questioning to which he was subjected several times and by different people, he expressed the firm desire not to be given any kind of publicity.

The Behaviour Of His Animals

The reactions of the dog and the kittens to the strange object was not abnormal in any way, and they appear to have suffered no physical effects. With the mother-cat however the situation was very different. As soon as the sudden flash of light had ended, the cat was nowhere to be found, despite the fact that at the time she was still suckling her kittens. She did not reappear until February 16, 1973, which was 48 *days later*, when her back was found still to show scorch-marks and burns.

The Symptoms Felt By The Witness

1. While the object was stationary in the air, Sr. V.M. felt a certain degree of tingling in his legs, which he described as similar to a strong vibration. This tingling sensation lasted until the second day, that is to say for some 48 hours, and after 72 hours was completely gone.

2. Three or four hours after his experience, Sr. V.M. had a severe headache, extending from the centre of the forehead to the temples, where he felt continual pulsations. This headache went on getting worse, and was finally unbearable, aspirin having no effect on it. From the eighth day onwards the headache began to abate, and on the 14th day it disappeared altogether. By the eighth day moreover the pain was in the back of his neck as well as in his head. By the date of my first visit (January 16, 1973) he was no longer feeling any pain.

3. Eight or nine hours after the episode, he developed a most violent type of diarrhoea, involving about eight attacks daily. Unfortunately he did not think to check whether or not he was passing blood. The diarrhoea continued until the eighth day, when he was finally able to terminate it with four tablets of *Streptocarbocaftiazol*.

4. The above-mentioned diarrhoea was accompanied for the first four days by nausea and vomiting. On the fourth day these ceased.

5. At the time of my first visit, on January 16, 1973, Sr. V.M. had begun to notice that he was losing hair abnormally, for at one pull he would be losing between 170 and 200 hairs. He did this several times, in the presence of the investigators, and it was evident to everybody that despite his 73 years he had abundant hair.

6. From the 14th day on, several small red pruriginous pustules appeared on the back of his neck, so that he was constantly scratching them. On January 16 I examined him and found some ten of these swollen red pustules.

7. After his experience Sr. V.M. developed a marked difficulty in speaking, having trouble in moving his tongue. This state of affairs persisted for about ten to twelve days, and was confirmed by many people. Even when I interviewed him on January 16, I could observe that he still had a slight stammer.

8. After the episode, Sr. V.M. found that both his eyes watered constantly. Beside tears, very thin filaments, about 3 cms. in length, almost capillary, also came from the eyes. This symptom finally vanished completely on the fifth day.

Traces Left By The Object

The site where the object appeared is surrounded by eucalyptus trees some 10-12 metres in height. Most of the tops of these trees were scorched or completely burnt. Several branches were taken to the National Atomic Power Commission, which issued an oral report stating that, according to the analysis made by them of the material presented, no traces of radioactivity had been found. Unfortunately however we were unable to get them to furnish us with an official written report.

Another effect that could be attributed to the presence of the object was the failure of Sr. V.M.'s transistor radio. UFOs are generally reported to cause failures in radios supplied from the electrical mains, but not in battery-powered radios, so it would be of great interest to know whether other investigators have encountered this type of failure of battery-operated radios.

A further possible (though at this time not yet confirmed) consequence of the appearance of this UFO could be the news—which has just reached us a few days ago—that a large quantity of dead catfish have been found in a small stream near the place of the sighting. The remarkable feature of this affair of the catfish is that some of the fish were gathered up and put in a refrigerator and on the following day were found to have turned a dark red. We have requested that five of the fish be sent to the Institute of Bromatology in La Plata for analysis. We hope to be able to report on the results in due course.

Conclusions Drawn from Analysis of the Physical Symptoms and Physical Traces Left Behind

i. Tingling sensation: The sensation of tingling or vibration described by the witness is an evident sign of his having absorbed some kind of discharge, be it electrical, or electromagnetic, or be it some sort of radiation, not necessarily radioactive. In the present case we have to rule out radioactivity, not only because the Atomic Power Commission's report was negative, but also for other reasons. There are, for example, the symptoms presented by the witness, which do clearly indicate the absorption of some kind of radiation—in this instance radiation of an unknown nature—largely similar to the consequences suffered by those who have been subjected to radioactivity. Yet another reason is the fact that today, 45 days after his sighting of the UFO, the witness is still alive and, at the date when this is being written, his neighbours have noticed that his health has improved remarkably, to such a point that he can now lift and carry weights that were out of the question for him before. Furthermore, the animals are all in perfect health, except of course for the mother cat, but she is recovering slowly from the burns on her back, though she remains very nervous.

ii. Headache: This symptom has been reported to be present in many cases where witnesses have been

exposed to the direct or indirect influence of the radiations emitted by the UFOs. Furthermore, it is a classic symptom which, as doctors and parapsychologists have been able to verify, frequently appears as the stage previous to the onset of ESP conditions. In the present case, ESP conditions had not been observed up to the time of writing this report, so far as we know. I can however quote several cases of people who (without having had a UFO sighting or contact) have had similar headache symptoms which on disappearing have given place to ESP faculties.

iii. Diarrhoea: This is another of the symptoms often mentioned by witnesses as resulting from their having been subjected to what we might term "stronger vibration fields," such as those surrounding UFOs.

iv. Vomiting: See under iii.

v. Loss of hair: This is a characteristic symptom resulting from the absorption of radiation.

vi. Small red pruriginous pustules: This is a symptom that has also been frequently mentioned by witnesses who have been near a UFO.

vii. Stammering: This has not often been mentioned. In the present case, the stammering by the witness can be confirmed by many people, including myself, though by the time I saw him the condition had reportedly been noticeably alleviated.

viii. Watering of the eyes: This is another symptom that frequently appears after a witness has been near a UFO or has simply observed the powerful light emitted by a UFO. The discharge of the *filaments* from the eyes is however something quite unusual.

* * * * *

Sr. V.M. was interrogated more than sixty times by different people, including doctors, engineers, police officials, and the Secretary to the local Government Office. These people have all requested that their names shall not be quoted, but their names are all on file. I hypnotised Sr. V.M. and questioned him again, and at no time was any discrepancy found between his statements under hypnosis and what he had said while in the waking state.

It should be noted furthermore that, after I had hypnotised Sr. V.M. and questioned him, I myself felt so weak for a while that I had to remain in bed, *and that this weakness in me was accompanied by nausea, vomiting, and severe diarrhoea with blood.* It is not an uncommon occurrence for the hypnotiser to absorb, by "closing the circuit," some portion or some elements of any problem that may be troubling the hypnotised subject.

On the other hand, four other investigators who interrogated Sr. V.M. while he was in his normal waking state felt nothing more than pains in the legs.

Despite his 73 years, Sr. V.M.'s mental state is completely lucid. All the details of the episode, plus his description of the occupants, the craft, the symbols on the "banner," etc., etc., were repeated by him several times to investigators without any contradictions being noted. The interrogations went on for several days, and his answer to every question was always quite spontaneous, with no hesitation. All the facts of the episode seemed to have been well engraved in the witness's mind, and the detailed nature of his replies baffled the investigators, particularly when it is taken into consideration that the whole experience was said to have lasted only some twenty seconds.

A possibility which it might be well worth our while to consider is that Sr. V.M. could have been subjected to a *mental projection*. This would account for the sharpness of his recollection of so many details, the projection having impressed itself deeply upon his subconscious mind. And here perhaps the sudden flash of light which came from the object may have played an all-important role.

We should not overlook the fact that at the present time experiments are being conducted in Russia in the recording of data at a distance by means of laser impulses—for example, in sending the contents of whole pages of newspapers or even books to a distance of 5,000 km., and in fractions of a thousandth of a second they are printed at their destination.

On the basis of our analysis of the data we have obtained regarding the witness Sr. V.M., as well as on the basis of the material evidence in the case, we fully accept that this "sub-contact" episode did occur as claimed. We propose to visit the witness again in the near future to make a further check on his health, and an additional report will then be issued.

The field investigation in this case was conducted by myself, Pedro Romaniuk. German translation by Engineer Sigurd von Wurmb and English translation by Miss Jane Thomas.

Buenos Aires, February 17, 1973.

REPORT ON SECOND VISIT

I went to see Sr. V.M. again, just over a month later, and was with him from February 19 to February 21 of this year. I was able to gather the following additional data:

The Witness

Since approximately February 10 Sr. V.M. has observed that new teeth have been appearing in his left upper gum. At the time of my second visit, I was able to confirm that two front teeth and two cheek teeth were coming through, and were already approximately 2 mms. to 3 mms. long.

Precisely 45 days after the UFO experience *parapsychological symptoms* began to show themselves in the witness. These parapsychological features are now undergoing scientific study. All researchers interested in receiving further details of these parapsychological phenomena which have developed since Sr. V.M.'s UFO experience are invited to write to me at Casilla de Correo, Moron, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The Cat

As I stated in the earlier part of this Report, the cat, with her back still singed and burnt, only reappeared on February 16. We understand that she has now become extremely shy, hiding herself away the whole time. She refuses to go near the place where she had her unpleasant experience, and she also avoids her kittens. After several attempts at the time of my second visit, we managed to get her while she was asleep and carry her out to the place where she had her experience, but

THE E.T. CONCEPT IN HISTORY

Lucius Farish

THIS contribution is occasioned by one of Gordon Creighton's remarks in a recent issue of *Flying Saucer Review*.[1] In discussing the history of those whom he terms the "Gentry," Creighton wondered if anyone prior to the early 1950s had claimed contact with "extraterrestrials."

Further, Mr. Creighton remarked, "What does seem certain, at any rate, is that, during the American Visitation of 1897 for example, not one of the entities allegedly met told any American that he was from another planet, and not a single American is reported in the press of that time as having thought there was anything 'interplanetary' about the whole affair."

Let us take these subjects one by one and see how well they stand the test of examination:

(1) Did anyone claim to have met inhabitants of other planets prior to 1952 or thereabouts? **Yes,** most definitely!

In the revised paperback edition of Vallée's *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*,[2] reference is made to the Jesuit scholar, Athanasius Kircher, who " 'could not find his words' to convey to his readers the admiration he felt for the inhabitants of Venus. He describes them as young men of a wonderful beauty, whose clothes were as transparent as crystal . . ."

Athanasius Kircher (1601-1680) wrote on a wide variety of scientific subjects, but most of his writings have never been translated from the original Latin. However, in Gustav Davidson's *A Dictionary of Angels*,[3] a bit more information is given concerning Kircher's "visits to various planets."

According to Davidson, Kircher was accompanied on his celestial flights by "the genius Cosmiel." On Saturn, he found the "sinister" genii inhabiting that planet. The "guardian angels of all the virtues" were found living on the "Elysian shores of the planet Jupiter."

If some Latin scholar among the FSR readers should wish to translate more of Kircher's writings into English—a worthy project, it would seem—the interplanetary accounts will probably be found in two works—*Oedipus Aegyptiacus* (Rome, 1652) ane *Voyage Ecstatique* (Rome, 1656).

Vallée also mentions one David Fabricius, a 17th Century writer who claimed to have met the "inhabitants of the Moon." Investigation of Fabricius' writings might well disclose more pertinent details.

Some time in the late 1800s, a book entitled *The Man From Mars* was published. The author, Thomas Blot, claimed to have met an inhabitant of the Red Planet in the mountains of California. The Martian had not arrived by spaceship, but through a process which seems to have been a mixture of astral projection and teleportation (if such a thing can be conceived!). Long discourses by the Martian, largely of a philosophical/sociological nature, are contained in the book. The only copy this writer has seen had the copyright date missing, so it is not possible to say precisely when the incident allegedly occurred. However, it was at the time of an extremely close approach of the planet Mars.

One modern contactee, Albert Coe of Beverly, New Jersey, claims to have been in contact with people now living on Mars and Venus who are descendants of a race which once lived on "Norca," a planet of the star *Tau* Ceti. Coe says his original contact occurred in 1920 and they have continued over the past 52 years.[4]

REJUVENATION FOLLOWS CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH UFO—*Continued from page 13*

as soon as we got there she suddenly awoke and fled in terror, scratching my arms as she escaped from me.

The Dead Catfish

The Bromatology analysis has not yet been received. The water of the small stream where the dead fish were found is normally drinkable. Two or three metres wide and about 50 or 60 cms. deep, its water is always crystal-clear and its flow is regular, indeed at times very fast. No more dead fish have been found since the first batch.

I must repeat that on the occasion of my second visit to the witness, and also all the other persons engaged in investigating this case, again emphasised their wish to remain anonymous and, despite our pleadings, they also insisted that even the name of the town be withheld. They consider that this is the only way in which they can be sure of avoiding a mass invasion by reporters and curiosity-seeking intruders.

Buenos Aires, February 27, 1973.

* * * * *

NOTE BY EDITOR OF FSR

The name of the town, the name of the witness, and the name of the Secretary to the local Government Office who participated in the interrogation of Sr. V.M., are on record with us, and in accordance with Señor Romaniuk's express request we shall not reveal them until advised that we may do so.

[*As indicated in our note on p. 10, some of these details have been published in Germany, so the restriction is now lifted.*—C.B.]

These are only a few examples of "pre-flying saucer" contactees.

(2) Did any of the "airship contactees" of 1896-97 claim to have met extraterrestrials? No—not exactly. Some of the people who met airship crews seem to have wondered if the "aeronauts" were terrestrials or otherwise, but no one openly voiced an opinion on the matter. There are only "hints," such as that of the Texas contactee who said he would not have been more astonished had he entertained inhabitants of the Moon. Or the Missouri man who met a nude man and woman from an airship and wondered if "Adam and Eve had come to Earth again." Or even Alexander Hamilton, the Kansas rancher who unwillingly provided a steak dinner for a group of airship occupants and wondered if they were "devils or angels."

(3) Did the newspapers of the airship era quote anyone as believing the strange aircraft were of E.T. origin? Again, the answer is a definite **Yes**.

The first reference to a possible E.T. source for the airships came in November 1896, during the wave of sightings on the U.S. West Coast.

In the November 24, 1896, edition of the Sacramento, California, *Bee*, the following letter appeared, headed "A Visitor From Mars?":

"To the Editor of the *Bee*—Sir: There is nothing improbable about our recent airship visitor. The only doubt that can arise is as to the origin of this particular aerial messenger.

"In my investigation of this subject, it would seem that this visitor is from our neighbouring planet Mars. We know, from the evidence of scientists and astronomers that Mars is many millions of years older than this earth. It is but reasonable to agree and conclude that the inhabitants of our nearest planetary neighbor, are more advanced in the sciences, and have more knowledge of the use of the great electric power than the denizens of the earth. Many thousands of years' experience have given them the perfection of inventions which would appear marvelous to our mundane people.

"The Lord Commissioner of Mars has evidently sent one of his electric aircraft on an exploring expedition to the younger but larger worlds.

"The airships are constructed of the lightest and strongest fabrics and the machinery is of the most perfect electrical work.

"Aluminium and glass, hardened by the same chemical process that forms our diamonds, contribute the chief material of their most perfect airships.

"When in use, these vessels, at a distance, have the appearance of a ball of fire, being operated wholly by the electric current generated on such vessel.

"The speed of our Martian ships is very great, and can be regulated to the rapidity of a thousand miles a second.

"In fact, with the Martian inventions, space is almost annihilated. These aerial craft can so adopt their courses that when they desire to rest they can anchor within certain degrees of latitude and wait for the revolutions of the earth, for instance, bring any particular locality desired, much nearer them, without the necessity of any aerial navigation.

"In Mars, all the great electric power is converted by the waves of the ocean, thus making electricity a common utility for everything necessary for their arts, sciences, manufactures, commerce, and transportation.

"It is supposed that the Lord Commissioner of Mars, in sending out his airship is seeking to establish telegraphic or telephone communication between the planets.

"It is probable, that in a short time this embassy will make a call upon the President. Perhaps they are delaying until Major McKinley assumes the administration of affairs, on the theory that there may be more advanced ideas in this event.—W.A., Sacramento, November 24, 1896."

Consider the now-familiar elements in W.A.'s story: The "hardened" aluminium and glass used in airship construction were paralleled by Adamski's comments about metals which were processed to the point of translucence. Where W.A. described the airships as having the appearance of a "ball of fire" when seen at a distance, modern contactees and theorists speak of "heavy forcefields." The speed of the "Martian" airships—"a thousand miles a second"—and their ability to "orbit" over a precise area are details which seem not to belong to the world of 1896. Unless, of course, W.A. had obtained his information "at firs hand"—as seems likely.

Who else thought of Martians in 1896-97? Severa people, apparently. Following the rustling of Alexander Hamilton's heifer by "hideous people" in an airship, the Colony, Kansas, *Free Press* commented: "The *Free Press* having turned the 'NOCTURNAL AERIAL VISITOR' completely over in its mind, is *now* of the opinion that the airship is not of *this world*, but is probably operated by a party of scientists from the planet Mars, who are out, either on a lark, or a tour of inspection of the solar system in the cause of science."

The Van Buren, Arkansas, *Daily Argus* of May 12, 1897, featured the opinions of a local resident concerning the aerial visitations: "Everybody has a theory concerning the airship story. The most acceptable theory is that it is of mundane origin, and that the secret concerning it will soon be known. Capt. Bostick stands alone in his theory, he asserting that it is an invention of some inhabitant of Mars who is down on a prospecting tour and is studying our system of government."

The St. Louis, Missouri, *Post-Dispatch*, in an editorial entitled "What Light Do We See?," speculated that the airships might be "visitors from Mars, fearful, at the last, of invading the planet they have been seeking. It is certainly time for Camille Flammarion to spread out an illuminated problem in Euclid which the Martians could recognise as a message of peace and good will as well as a hospitable invitation to alight."

In Michigan, the Benton Harbor *Daily Palladium* of April 13, 1897, commented on the airship reports:

(*Continued on page* 26)

TAIZÉ: A CASE RIGHT OUT OF THE ORDINARY

J. Tyrode

We take this extremely valuable and well investigated report, with the kind permission of the Editors, from the journal *Lumières dans la Nuit,* No. 122 of February, 1973. Translation from the French by Gordon Creighton.

THE EYEWITNESSES in this case fall into three groups:

1. Some 30 people or thereabouts, whose names, for the most part, are not known. Among them: Monsieur F. Tantot of Mâcon; Mlle. R. Faa de Masullas, of Sardinia; an anonymous man from Dijon. The rest of them are chance acquaintances of these three. The only one who might be found easily, should this be useful for our purposes, is an Italian student.
2. A group of four single witnesses, already named in 1.
3. Monsieur Tantot, on his way home, and a group of motorists, unknown, regarding whose identity no research has yet been conducted. We request them, should they so desire, to let us know who they are. Anonmity guaranteed.

The sites, and the weather on August 12, 1972

i. A level area on the outskirts of the religious community of Taizé. (Geographical coordinates for Taizé: 46° 31′N; 4° 40′E, approximately.)

ii. A spot on National Highway N.481, between Cluny and Mâcon, after one leaves Cluny. (Coordinates: 46° 26′N; 4° 39′E.) The BAVIC Line passes at 18 km. to the NNW of Taizé (see map showing details of the region). The weather was overcast, no stars being visible. Rain was falling during the termination of the Taizé sighting.

Taizé

The Taizé religious community, founded by Père Roger Schutz, a Protestant monk (and a Burgundian by origin) who studied Theology at Lausanne. Friar Roger is himself the director of the community at the present time. His life work is devoted to the cause of the Ecumenical Movement.

The sparse dwellings at Taizé, many of which, abandoned, have been bought up by Friar Roger, are scattered around on the crest of a hill (altitude about 250 metres) which dominates by some 50 metres or so the surrounding plain. The Friar has built a chapel there, to which people come from all over the world. In 1972, 35 nations took part in the celebrations organised there by him.

One meets there people from every walk of life, almost exclusively young people. These are housed in tents, like military bell tents, in Spartan conditions, sleeping on the ground in the wet weather and saying their prayers seated on the ground. These tents stand above the village, on the top of a hill, and there is a road leading up to them. On the whole of the terrain on the other side of this road there are a cafeteria, and car-parks, and the young people have also fashioned a sort of rustic theatre there, cut out of the bare ground, where they are able to gather together for meetings. This theatre is right on the edge of the crest of the hill, and it was here that the sighting began.

This extraordinary affair lasted from 2.00 a.m. to 5.00 a.m. on August 12, 1972.

Two o'clock in the morning

A large group of young men and girls were up there, talking. Who were they? This can only be ascertained with very great difficulty. There were about thirty of them, but they are not anxious to give their identities. If it is absolutely indispensable, we could get the names of four of them, but the declarations already secured from three of them are sufficiently explicit and detailed for us to be able to draw up a circumstantial report on the facts of the case.

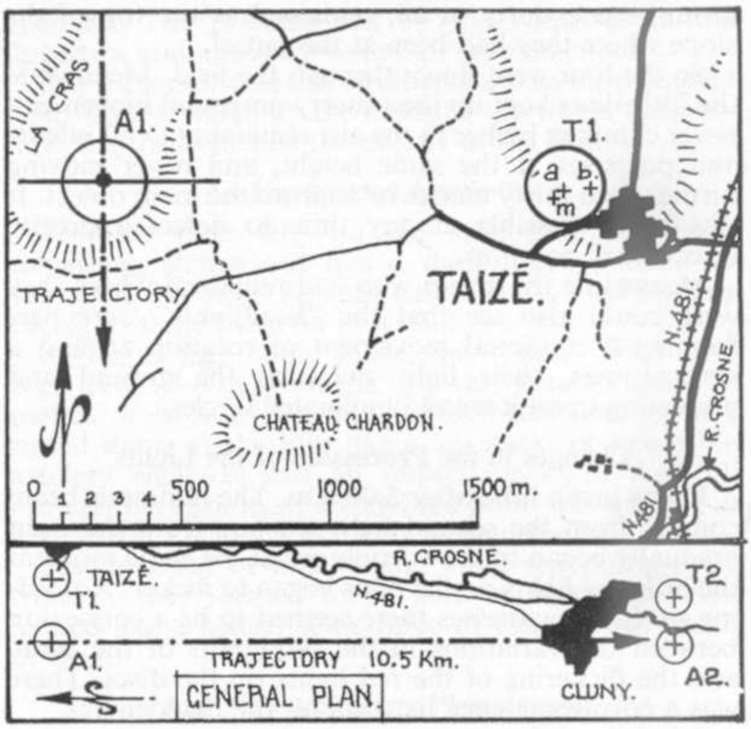
Among those present there were thus the young man from Dijon, Mlle. Renata Faa de Masullas, Monsieur F. Tantot, plus the young Italian student whose name I do not know at the present moment. None of those present believed in flying saucers, or at any rate none had ever taken any interest in such matters.

The Alarm is Given: Arrival of the Object

The group of youngsters were in the middle of their discussions. Suddenly Mlle. Renata Faa, facing towards the valley, saw "something" coming down out of the sky.

In order to give a better grasp of the scene, let us explain that, from the observation point where they were, they could see, towards the West, several rows of hills. Ahead of the 250-metre high slope on which they were gathered, they could see first of all another crest of the same height, then beyond that a second crest rising to 300 metres, and finally a third one beyond that, the top of which reaches 418 metres. These ridges are separated by shallow valleys, the downward slopes of which are gentle, while the rises on the other sides of the valleys are a bit steeper, putting one in mind of the steps of a stairway. Commencing just in front of the witnesses was a smooth descending area occupied by a vast ploughed field, bordered on the far limit by a hedge.

So Mlle. Renata was the first to see the approach of what she took to be some sort of star, and she shouted to her companions to look, but they did not look in the right direction and failed to see the motion of the "star," which had been too brief. Meanwhile,



Map of Taizé sighting and, below, plan Taizé/Cluny
Key: A1-A2, positions of object
T1-T2, positions of witnesses
a, position of 3 witnesses
b, position of 30 witnesses
c, position of dark mass

the "star" now seemed to have landed on the ground!

And indeed everyone present could see that there was an object, stationary, apparently on the ground or very close to it, on the hill facing them, and visible at the same level as themselves.

But every one of them had noticed that the apparition of the object had been preceded by a sort of "whistling noise." Though in fact it was not quite a whistle, but rather it was like a sort of vibration which they felt in their ears without actually being able to identify any sound.

The object was thus on the ridge facing them, that is to say, approximately at the spot known as "Le Cras," so far as the darkness permitted them to see, for at any rate the high ground beyond Mont was visible behind the object, this feature imparting a certain degree of precision in their estimate of the object's position.

Size of the Object

It was big (see Fig. 1), and the configuration of the ground up at the site has enabled us to arrive at a good approximation as regards its dimensions. In fact it so happened that, running up that whole slope of the hill, there was a big field with a cereal crop, and owing to its lighter colouring this field could be seen very clearly in the darkness, being lit up by the light coming from the object. The object was bounded on the left by this field, while to the right of the object there was a tree very clearly visible on the ridge. "It's a coach," said one of the witnesses. "No. A coach is smaller than that," said another. The "thing" seemed to them to be very large, and their final estimate of its length was 30 metres. After our examination of the site by daylight, we are of the opinion that the length was between 30 and 40 metres.

The Illumination of the Object: Lights Appear

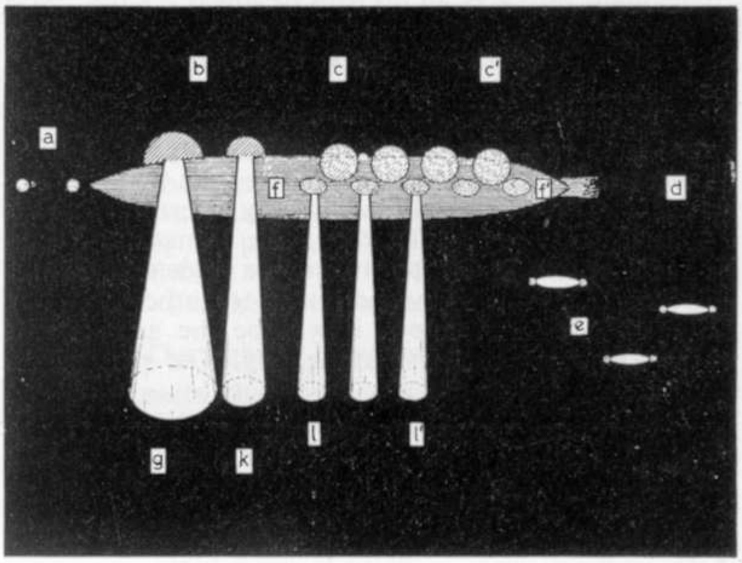
Mlle. Renata was thus, as we have said, the only one to have seen the arrival of the object. Turning round quickly, the other witnesses saw what one might term the lighting up of the object. First of all they observed lights, without distinguishing any order in the manner in which they were disposed. This lasted for a very brief time, for soon they could perceive an order to the lights and could make out a shape.

At the start of the sighting they perceived a series of seven lights, all yellow. Then, to their left, two small orange lights which seemed to be outside the object.

Very soon after that, five of the seven lights began to emit luminous beams which extended "progressively" towards the ground. These beams were white. There were only five of them. The two lights on the extreme right, as seen from the position of the viewers, projected no luminous beams.

Above the two beams on the extreme left they could see what looked like two demi-spheres (let us call them "cupolas"), also yellow, and all these beams of light diverged normally from each other as they shone downwards towards the ground.

But the witnesses made astonishing comments to me regarding one particular impression which had struck them as very curious: namely that these beams of light had given the bizarre impression of being as it were "pylons" rather than actual lights. This inevitably reminded me of what I myself had learnt in the Villiers-



Key: (a) two intermittent lights;
(b) two yellow "cupolas," one bigger than the other;
(c) four white "portholes" appeared at c then disappeared;
(d) flames;
(e) three white discs, each bearing two red lights, appeared;
(f) four small yellow lights at f;
(g) very large beam of light;
(k) big beam of light;
(l) to (l[1]) three narrower and smaller beams of light

en-Morvan case, where the beam of light observed had behaved like a solid (see *Lumiéres Dans La Nuit* No. 96, December 1968). This impression is confirmed by the "progressive" extension of the luminous beams towards the ground. The light emitted by the object at Taizé had an appearance of rigidity and of coldness in its fixity.

Effects on the Observers

Almost at the very outset of the sighting, and for a duration of several minutes, M. Tantot felt a tingling in his fingers, like what is popularly called "pins and needles." The man from Dijon felt it too, and he also felt it in the knees. Mlle. Renata says that, so far as she was concerned, she was not affected and did not feel these tinglings.

The Sighting Continues: Appearance of the Discs

Soon after the object had landed, small red sparks made their appearance at the right end of the object, and then quickly were extinguished. As soon as they had been extinguished there appeared on the right side three small white discs which apparently had come out of the object along with the sparks. They seemed to consist of white light and yet to be quite material. At each of their extremities could be seen little red points of light. These small white discs started to perform various movements, turning around the principal object, and this continued throughout the whole of the observation, that is to say for more than 2½ hours. A description of the movements of these discs would be impossible, as they did not appear to obey precise laws.

Curiosity Wins: They Go and Look

After they had watched the main object for about an hour the eyewitnesses began to have the idea that they would like to go and take a closer look. Their impression was that the machine was nearer to them than actually was the case, and so four people went down into the ploughed field already referred to above (these were Monsieur Tantot, Mlle. Renata, the man from Dijon and the Italian student—a student of nuclear physics from what I have been able to gather).

In what follows below, it will be the accounts of these four people that I am giving. The rest of the group, some thirty in all, remained at the top of the slope where they had been at the outset.

So the four went down through the field. Meanwhile the little discs kept up their merry-go-round movement, never climbing higher in the air, remaining to all intents and purposes at the same height, and never moving further than thirty metres or so from the main object. It was never possible at any time to detect a precise direction of rotation.

Meanwhile the group who had remained where they were could also see that the "headlights" were performing a continual movement of rotation around a vertical axis, their light sweeping the ground and projecting upon it small illuminated circles.

Changes in the Procession of the Lights

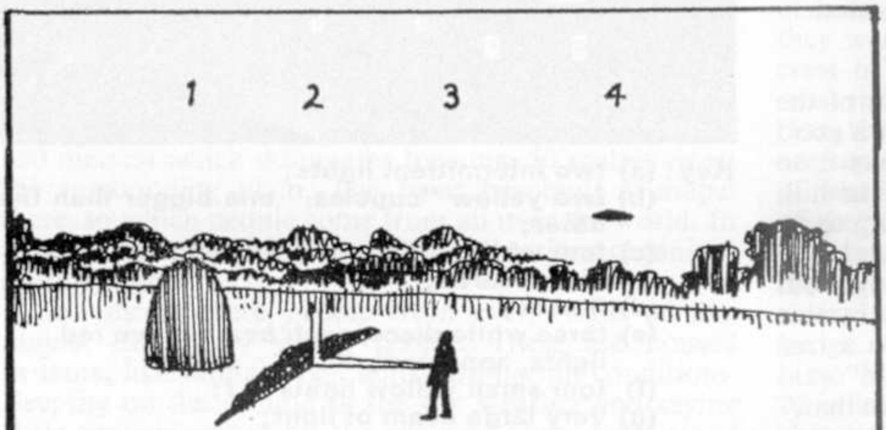
It was just a little after 3.00 a.m. The luminous beam coming from the second light starting from the right gradually began to grow brighter. At the same moment the little red lights on the discs began to flicker. According to the eyewitnesses there seemed to be a connexion between the variations in the brightness of the beam and the flickering of the red lights on the discs. There was a correspondence between all the manoeuvres.

New Phenomena Occur

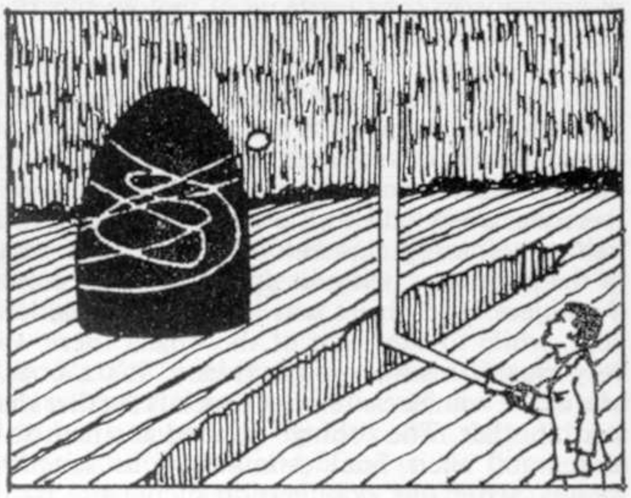
From that instant a series of complicated phenomena developed. It is impossible to describe them all in detail, and it has not been possible to establish the order of their sequence.

A multitude of red particles appear everywhere: in the air all around the witnesses, and on the ground in the ploughed field over which they are slowly advancing . . .

The luminous beam corresponding to the biggest light source (see Fig. 1) undergoes variations in brightness. One of the five small yellow lights changes to blue (the witnesses are unable to say exactly which one). Above and between the five yellow "portholes" there appear what look like circles of light of an unreal shade of white. These circles, or rounds of white, form as it were sorts of windows which have been gradually appearing, and are becoming more and more clearly defined. This goes on for twenty minutes. Then the rounds fade out and finally vanish. The light of the very large beam flashed several times and its brightness



1. Dark mass; 2. 'Hedge' deflects beam; 3. witness; 4. UFO in distance



changed. The pricking felt by the witnesses in the fingertips and knees continued or recommenced.

Our witnesses were still advancing across the ploughed field, slowly, watching the machine the whole time. By now they had reached the middle of the field.

An Unexpected Encounter

Towards their left, on the level ploughed field, something stands out like a dark mass, difficult to see in the darkness. As they have electric torches, they decide to shine them on to it. But . . .

So far as they could judge, the "thing" must have been about 5-6 metres high, and very near to them, 10 metres or so away. It was almost black, ending in a round dome at the top, like a haystack, or like a big artillery shell. It was an impressive sight. And all around this dark mass a small red point was moving in a haphazard fashion, like a fly around the bait.

Just in front of this "thing," and separating them from it, they seemed to be able to make out what looked like a hedge, some three or four metres ahead of them.

And Now a Strange Phenomenon

The beam of light from the electric torch, which they directed towards the "thing" horizontally, behaved as a good torch beam should, that is to say horizontally, as they desired, fanning out into a cone of light, and in the normal course of things should have reached the "thing." But lo and behold, when it had got to about 50 cms. from the "hedge" (let us however state straight away that there never was any hedge at that spot) the beam of the torch, which normally should have continued straight on its course, horizontally, turned up vertically, losing itself in the air, and never even touched the "hedge." And as it went up, it underwent a modification in the sense that, instead of continuing to fan out into a cone, it seemed to maintain the same width as it had at the point where it had been refracted.

After several fruitless attempts to shine the torch on to the "thing" the witnesses were by now discomfitured and invaded by anxiety in the face of this unwonted phenomenon which exceeded their comprehension, and they hesitated to advance any further. Moreover they realised by now that the big object was much further away than they had imagined at first, so they remained where they were to observe events.

Four o'clock in the morning

The small discs now approach the main object. They flash, and their lights go out. Perhaps they have gone back into the object, which is what one might reasonably expect. Almost immediately after that the whole illumination disappears, and everything seems to have gone out. A minute goes by, and then the lights come on again.

Mechanically, Monsieur Tantot signalled towards the object with his torch. At once, as though in reply, the big light on the left end of the machine changes the direction of its beam and directs it towards the young people in the field and holds it on them. They are blinded and must shade their eyes with their hands in order to lessen the effect of the burning rays. At the same time they feel intense heat. (This recalls the sighting at the Gabriel and Galand Dam where, after they had signalled with their headlights, the two witnesses were blinded. See *Lumiéres Dans La Nuit* No. 112 of June 1971. It recalls also the Franois case, in *Lumiéres Dans La Nuit* No. 99 of April 1969,* in which, after the witnesses had flashed their headlights, Mme. Froidevaux shouted: "They're charging down on us!")

Meanwhile the witnesses who had remained up on the top of the hill knew nothing of the drama which might have been going on down below (for, after all, the beams of light might well have had far more disturbing effects than they did). And they thought that the lights that they could see down there were all from the torches of the four who had gone off to investigate. Had it not been for this misunderstanding we might possibly have been able to secure more precise details regarding this phase of the sighting.

At Last the Big Object Moves

Down in the field our four witnesses stay where they are. The yellow beam of light from the object sweeps the ground beneath it. Near to it, a small red light has now appeared, and remains stationary, to the right of the yellow light. And now they see the object begin to move. It all looks as though it is having some sort of difficulties in moving. Then the machine executes a new manoeuvre. They can see it very clearly outlined now, at least they have a good idea of its shape. It is a mass of a sort of bluish tint, as though this mass were the envelope of the object seen earlier. It seems to have risen a little, and it still has this little red light on its right. Now it seems to turn on its axis, this manoeuvre being detectable by the movement of the little red light. In fact this little red light moves to the left, and then it returns on the right, and it looks to the observers as though it is the whole object itself that has turned and not merely the little red light.

Finally, the great machine shoots off suddenly towards the South, in the direction of Cluny, and seems to be following the profile of the terrain, that is to say, rising and falling with the profile. Such at least is the impression that the witnesses have.

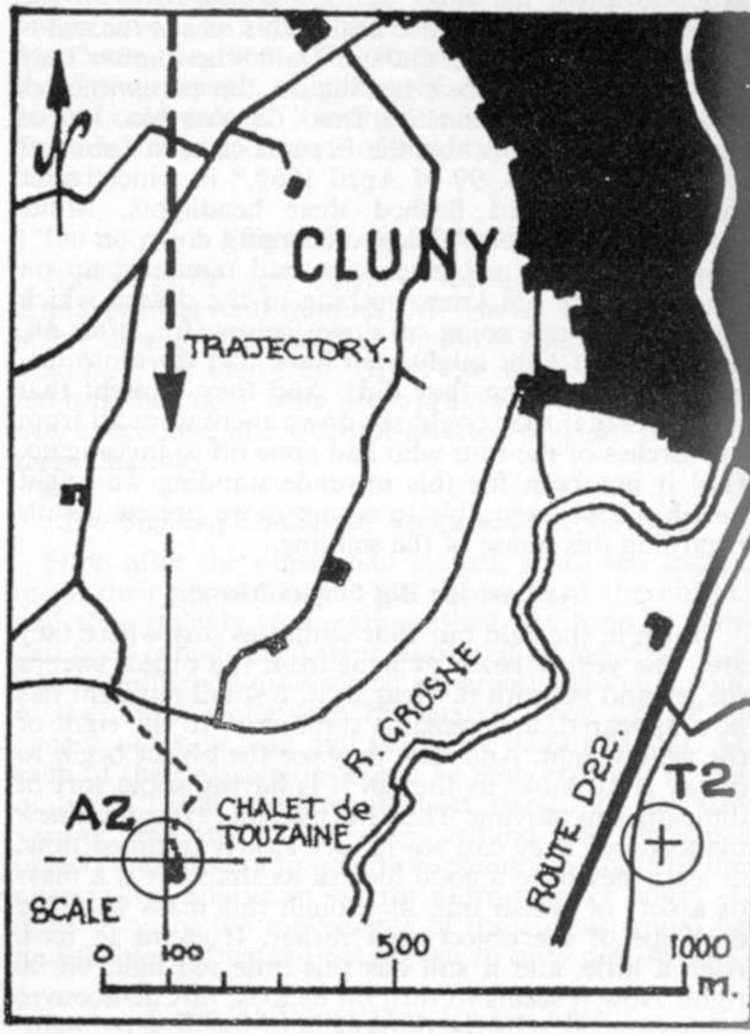
4.40 a.m.: The Sighting Has Lasted About 2 hrs. 40 mins.

As it departs, the machine is surrounded (or circumscribed . . . .) by the bluish halo already mentioned. At the spot that it has just left, in the field on the hillside, there remains a faint halo, also bluish, which persists for a few moments. Then, after the machine has gone, it begins to rain.

The Speed of the Machine

The young people now begin to record the time for which the machine remains visible. From the various features of the terrain that could serve as reference points, they were able to make a rough estimate of its speed. They found that it did 9 kilometres in three seconds: in other words, a speed of 10,000 kms. per hour. This is an approximate figure which may after all be quite valid. The machine vanished from sight in the distance, but the witnesses had the impression that it did not go as far as the horizon.

* See also *FSR Case Histories*, Supplement 2.



The Object Seen Again

The Taizé sighting over, Monsieur Tantot got into his car to return to Mâcon. He took Highway N.481 to Cluny, passed through this latter place, and then, as he was driving up the hill beyond Cluny, a surprise was in store for him: there were a considerable number of stationary cars, their drivers apparently looking at something quite far off in the air and lower than the road. The occupants of two cars were near as M. Tantot drew up in his turn. Nor could there be any doubt in his mind: this was the same object that he had just seen at Taizé. The point in the sky, where it was, was right on the prolongation of the line of direction in which he had seen it disappearing a few minutes before.

The object was now low in the air, right above a small property surrounded by a ring of woodland. This property lies not far from the Cluny-Jalogny road, beside a narrow road which branches off here and leads to Touzaine. The property includes a small wood, mainly of fir and spruce, with a few poplars and aspens. In the lower part of the wood, near the Touzaine road, is a little clearing. Monsieur Tantot and the other witnesses were about 1 km. from the object, the sky was still overcast, and dawn not far off.

The object now presented the appearance of a great yellow light, projecting no beam, and accompanied by a small red light. The whole thing was surrounded by a sort of bluish halo, such as had been seen at Taizé. In Monsieur Tantot's mind there could not be any doubt of its being the same object.

A few moments later, the other witness said it looked as though the object was now on the ground, obviously down in the clearing referred to above. They could see the trees lit up by it.

A few minutes later, the big yellow light began to give out an intermittent light, going out and coming on again. In any event its light showed great variations in brightness. When the lights of this large yellow one became normal again, a small red light began to flicker. It was not the same small red light seen in the previous sighting at Taizé, which had now disappeared.

Why Not Drive Up to It . . . in the Car

Monsieur Tantot drove towards the property. Meanwhile the object remained where it was. When he had reached a point not far from the wood, into which he did not dare to venture (it is more or less closed off by a surrounding wall, which has an opening in it, but no gate) he could see the bluish halo very clearly but could not see the machine itself.

Then, suddenly, there was no longer any halo and no longer any craft: it had vanished, he does not know how. And where it had been, on the ground, just as at Taizé, there was a bluish halo which remained for a few minutes, before vanishing in its turn.

He saw nothing further, so returned home to Mâcon.

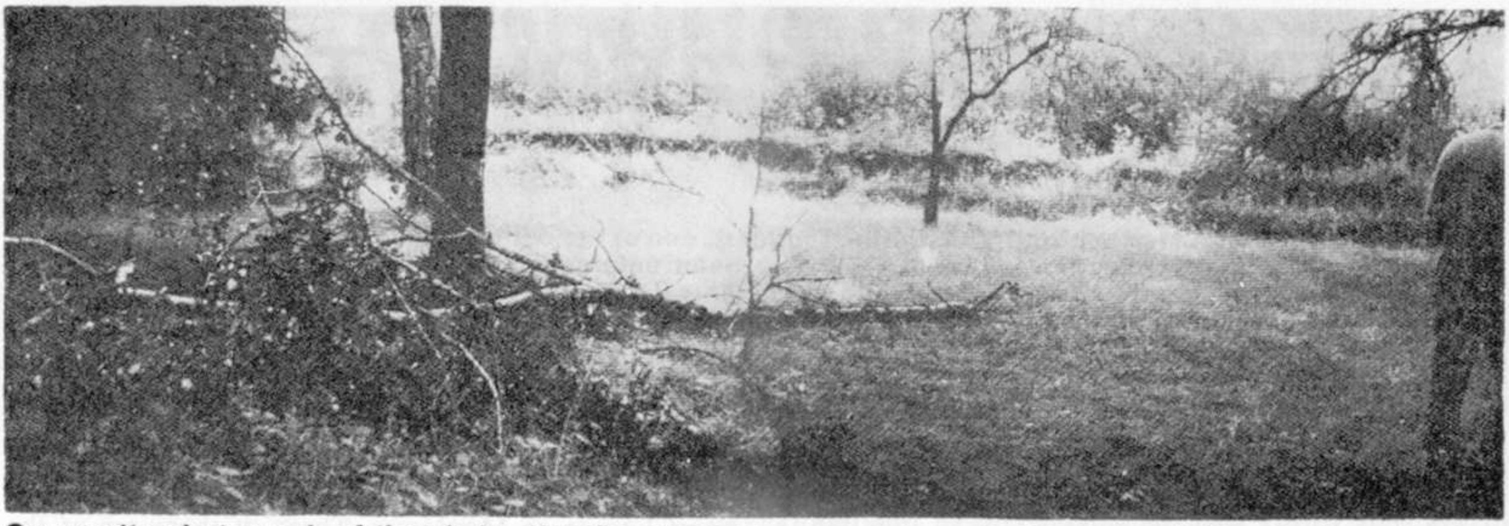
The Gendarmerie

Two days after this memorable experience, Monsieur Tantot decided to report his sighting to the Gendarmerie. He went to the Gendarmerie Brigade Headquarters in Cluny, and then to the Headquarters at Saint-Gengoux-le-National, where he was very well received. The Gendarmes took a tape-recording of his statement. Then he informed *Lumiéres Dans La Nuit*, in the person of Monsieur Robert Veillith.

Monsieur Tantot's Investigation

Accompanied by friends, M. Tantot went to the places where the machine was presumed to have landed. They found nothing at the spot where it was thought to have been at the first sighting. All that they saw was a burnt area in a field that had been mown, which area could have been the place where the object was. But the owner of the field affirmed that it was he himself who had burnt some hay there, hay that he had been unable to dry.

At the top end of the field they found marks that looked like wheel-tracks, probably of a tractor. Lower down, they found an area 30 metres long (the size of the object), and of elliptical shape, consisting of a zone of dessicated grass. Within this zone, there were marks where there had been fire, one larger than the other. It does indeed seem that it is the result of the heap of hay that the farmer burnt and that he then transferred to another spot a little further on in order to set light to a second heap of hay. We cannot say that these marks could have been made by the machine, and it is in fact highly probable that the story about the burnt hay is the correct explanation. (That is to say, of course, as regards the burnt piles of hay. But the zone of dessicated



Composite photograph of the glade, showing the broken aspen branch. Reproduced directly from *Lumières dans la Nuit*

grass, its shape, and the length of it, is a different matter, and remains a source of perplexity.)

An Interesting Discovery

Inside the wood the young folk were more fortunate with their investigation. Right in the middle of the clearing, which was very pronounced, they were surprised to see a large branch lying on the ground. This branch looked healthy, so they went over to look at it. It was from a good-sized aspen. A magnificent tree, about 20 metres high, it was perfectly healthy. Two-thirds of the way up the tree, they saw the place where the branch had broken off.

The appearance of this branch is rather strange. On the side of it that had been nearest to the trunk of the tree, it showed a break which, for about one-third of its diameter, looked as though made by a saw. And in that portion of it there was an orange-hued elliptical zone that contrasted greatly with the general colour of the break. After that, the rest of it looks as though the wood was not sawn but had been torn away, as though pulled violently from the tree. This "saw mark" is incomprehensible. It was not done with a saw . . . so with what and how?

The leaves of the aspen branch also present a strange appearance. They are of a greyish-brown colour, dotted with extremely numerous small bluish-white dots, as though applied with a fine spray. These leaves remain excessively supple for a very long time, and do not rustle. Close by, dry leaves are found which are not off this particular branch, and the appearance of which is totally different, looking nothing like these supple ones.

(The analysis of the leaves yielded no results. They were sent to a specialist and here is the answer received from him: "As regards the analysis of the leaves, the sample given was insufficient, and furthermore it was already too late for making biological analyses of any value. This raises once again the problem of sampling and the problem of the need for rapid reporting of information after a landing.")

And I made another interesting discovery at this place. I found, namely, that the aspen branch must have remained attached to the tree for a few moments before falling, and that it did not break "in one go."

The broken aspen branch. Arrow indicates the orange-coloured area

It looks as though, after beginning to break, it remained attached to the trunk a certain while, and then detached itself, having hung down for a few moments. Then it fell, the top first, hitting the ground not far from the tree, and only then became completely severed from the trunk, and dropping down on the ground. It was the middle part of the branch, thus, that was lying near the trunk.

The length of the branch is about 6 metres. Its average diameter is about 15 cms., and the average diameter of the orange part in the cut is about 5 cms.

I might add that all the other trees on the property are apparently in good health. The owner saw this broken branch lying there on the morning following the night on which the object was observed.

* * * * *

Note (by Editor of L.D.L.N.)

The photographs (some of the more interesting of which we published with this article) were all taken with infra-red sensitive film. Unfortunately, as Monsieur Tyrode tells us, the film was a bit old, which does not favour the securing of good results.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT TAIZÉ

F. Lagarde

Our contributor is, with M. Raymond Veillith (the founder), one of the editors of the journal *Lumières dans la Nuit. The editorial team has been enlarged recently to include Messrs. M. Monnerie and R. Ollier, while the technical consultant (on UFO reports) is Aimé Michel. Translation by Gordon Creighton.**

No comment that we could make would seem capable of providing any explanations or any additions regarding this sighting, extremely strange and inexplicable as we can only expect in the UFO Phenomenon. We abstain therefore from such comment, except only to say that the genuineness of this report is beyond doubt, and to note that the duration of the observation of the craft was particularly long, much too long for it to be a question of any sort of atmospheric phenomenon, and especially as it was followed by a second sighting a little later and in a different place.

Perhaps an expanded enquiry among the local populace might yield further details about this happening. It does genuinely present a poser for all those who—be they scientists or not—take an interest in the UFO Phenomenon.

But the surroundings too may be found to be of some interest.

We find that there is a series of faults, more or less parallel, running along the right bank of the valley of the river Grosne, and more or less S-N. These faults start in the area between Jalogny and Taizé, along the presumed route taken by the UFO.

The spiritual centre at Taizé is the world's only Protestant monastery. Its Friars number over 80. The Church of the Reconciliation at Taizé was rebuilt by young German volunteers as a token of reparation for the devastation suffered by France in the last War. I do not know whether it is possible to suggest any connection between this spiritual centre and the phenomenon seen, but this proximity of the Taizé Religious Community had to be mentioned.

In any case, this spot seems to have long been devoted to spiritual or religious purposes. There is a nicely placed group of seven dolmens near the high point known as Montcoue. Three of them are at the spot called "Les Chironails," to the north-west of Montcoue, and the one known as "La Motte-Chien" ("Dog-Mound") is on the southern face. The caves at La Diles are formed by a collapsed dolmen. Another dolmen, "La Pinasse," is in a neighbouring valley, and at Maranzais a raised stone construction, consisting of two tables and seven pillars, forms a great funerary chamber with two compartments. Finally, completing the picture, there are two ruined dolmens near the village of Noizé.

The Abbey of Cluny, nearby, is so well known that there is no need to speak of it. But near the Cross of Montmain (La Croix de Montmain) there is the stone known as "La Pierre de l'Ecorchure," which was no doubt the site of a religious cult in the days of the Celts and the Ligurians.

* A review of 28 pages, published 10 times a year, with the option in every other issue, of 12 supplementary pages (on human problems, UFO historical, spiritual and unsolved matters). Subscription rates (foreign) 47 Frs. (with Supplementary pages) or 39 Frs. (UFO matters only). Remit by International Money Order to: Monsieur R. Veillith, "Les Pins," 43400 Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France.

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THESE CUNNING BRITISH: THE TRUTH AT LAST!

Gordon Creighton

NO doubt many people realise by now that the attempts to design and construct successful circular, or wingless, or other types of unconventional aircraft go back a long way. We can be sure that all the technically advanced nations have some weird and spectacular devices of this kind up their sleeves.

In the German press-report recently translated for us by Herr Eberhard Schneider (to be published soon) there is mention of Rudolf Lusar, who wrote a book, published in 1959, about Germany's secret weapons of the concluding phase of World War II. Whether or not the German designers of some of these craft were simply copying "something else" that they had observed in the sky, it is clear that the true pioneers of the terrestrial flying saucer were the Germans. They seem to have had at least two disc-shaped prototypes, one of which I believe may have been the rumoured *V*-7, and was highly successful in its trials. Such remarkable developments in German aviation in the very last months of the War may have been the factor that kept Hitler confident of victory until a very late date.

A Croatian explanation for flying saucers

Those readers who possess *Flying Saucer Review* No. 3, edited by Derek Dempster (July/August number, 1955) may possibly recall an article which I sent in, on page 29, entitled *Croat Paper Explains Saucers.*[1] This was an abridgement of a considerably longer article in a Croatian language magazine (date and title-page unfortunately missing) which had come into my possession. In it was given the story of Habermohl and Schriever, and Professor Miethe, and their German super-discs.* That was four years before Lusar's book made its appearance in Germany. We learned also that French aviation engineers were in the field before even the Germans: there were Jean Mermoz in 1932, and the Poitiers Scientific Association, who "flew their prototype successfully" in 1939—facts that were attributed to a report published in 1953 by Neki Coanda,[2] a "French naval officer of Rumanian origin, who claimed to have designed a jet-aircraft in 1909."

The Croatian report suggested (and I had entirely forgotten about this) that the German prototype discs provide the complete explanation for the famous story about the "crashed UFO found on the Norwegian Arctic island of Svalbard (Spitzbergen)." The Spitzbergen affair has been one of the hardy perennials that have plagued us over the years, like the Monguzzi and Heligoland stories, and it may well be that with the rediscovery of this forgotten German angle we have the correct solution.

> Some time ago I gave Mr. Creighton a copy of an Italian book that had been sent to me: recently he said—very much tongue-in-cheek—that he would like to write a few words about it, and about another book that he had received recently from the same source. This, he added, would also call for a review of reports of earth's own home-made "flying saucers" which, by the mid-1950s, had been relegated to the sole purpose of providing convenient explanations for the real ones.
>
> EDITOR.

So it is clear, I think, that (with all respect for Messrs. Coanda and Mermoz) the fathers and originators of successful flying saucers were the Germans. But, as I propose to show, others were to reap the rich harvest that Germany sowed.

The Canadian "saucer"

Plenty has happened since FSR began, and since FSR published the Croatian report. It is common knowledge that an Englishman named John C. M. Frost designed a great "saucer" to have 180 jets. It was no doubt an outgrowth of the work of the Germans, and it was also specifically stated to owe a great deal to the jet-outlet experiments of the 1930s of the Frenchman Henri Coanda.[3] *Life* magazine of June 22, 1954, had a two-page authoritative article on Frost's model, with illustrations, and stated that the project "was the outgrowth of a saucerlike craft called *Project Y* which Frost had designed for his employers, A. V. Roe Canada Ltd., of Ontario."

The following is an extract from the *Life* article, the title of which was FLYING SAUCER BOUNCES OFF THE DRAWING BOARD:

"The U.S. is seriously considering building a flying saucer. It would, if the designer's expectations are fulfilled, take off by going straight up, have a speed of 1,800 m.p.h., and combat radius of 1,500 miles. It could hover in mid-air and go sideways or backward. It would have a pilot. It would be built of stainless steel and would probably look much like the one shown in the drawing above. It is still, however, in a highly experimental stage and some aerodynamics experts doubt strongly that it is possible today to build any saucer which will have great advantages over more conventional planes now on the drafting-boards.

"The principle of the flying saucer on which the U.S. Air Force is soon expected to spend a great deal of money . . . is based on the 1930s' jet-outlet experiments of a Frenchman named Henri Coanda, and is expected to work like this: jets of gas are propelled down and out from vents in the edge of the saucer, pulling air down over the saucer's top and diminishing the air pressure on the top surface.

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* Shriever died in Bremen in 1953, while it was speculated that Habermohl was working for the Russians and Miethe for the Americans.

When this pressure is sufficiently less than on the saucer's under-surface, the saucer rises. (The difference in pressure is what gives any airplane wing its lift.)

"According to theory, the pilot—sitting in the center of the saucer atop the engine—will take off by letting go all 180 jet streams. Slowly the craft will rise. To level off, he cuts down power. By making adjustments so that the rear blasts will go straight out instead of bending downward and then shutting all but the rear ports, he goes forward, the jets propelling the craft as in a conventional plane. As the pilot changes direction—shutting off ports in the left side to go left, or those in "back" to go in reverse—his cockpit will automatically revolve so he is always facing forward. He can, if he wishes, almost stop the craft in mid-air, tilt it, and have a look below. Even while the U.S. prepared for the saucer age, the Air Force received pictures of flying saucers, presumably Soviet, flying over Scandinavia."

What happened to the earthly saucers—in peacetime?

From the foregoing item, in the authoritative *Life* magazine, we glean several interesting things. First, we learn that the proposed machine (still on the drawing-board in 1954) was expected to do all the things that we understand the UFOs actually *have* been doing daily all this time since at least 1947. Secondly, we learn that, since the Americans took over Frost's idea from the Canadian *Project Y*, nothing could have come so far of Canada's own efforts in that direction. From all of which we are obliged to conclude that, with the exception of the Nazi disc that must have got away to South America with Hitler and Martin Bormann aboard, all the saucers seen in the world between the end of German armed resistance on May 7, 1945, and June 22, 1954 (date of the *Life* article) *simply have got to be* Russian craft, Habermohl's work no doubt.

Many of the early South American cases will have to be reviewed in the light of the possible activities of Hitler and Bormann. I think in particular of Case No. 1 of my *Humanoids In Latin America*, in which the Brazilian José Higgins[4] must have seen Hitler and Bormann, with one other Nazi, at Baurú. The Nazis, who were wearing curious clothing, seemingly of bright paper, under their transparent plastic overalls, tried to inveigle Higgins aboard their craft. In Case No. 2, at Lago Argentino on March 18, 1950, the rancher Sr. Wilfredo Arévalo[5] might also have encountered Hitler and Bormann, out for a morning spin in their disc.

U.S. plans for Canada's saucer . . .

It must be admitted that there were some, even in these days, who felt puzzled. Thus, when the American Air Force first revealed their plans to build John Frost's saucer, the *New York Herald-Tribune* (November 2, 1955) even had an editorial about it, in which they asked *how we were going to be able to explain all those other saucers that folk had already been seeing in flight for years before* 1955?[6]

But by then the U.S. Air Force was well into its stride. On November 7, 1955, *Time* magazine reported Secretary of the Air Force Donald A. Quarles as having announced that the Frost prototype was ready for its first tests and would shortly be blasting off from the runways of the Ryan Aeronautical Company of San Diego, California. Somewhat peevishly, as I thought at the time, Quarles added that the craft "might be mistaken for some sort of flying saucer."

This *Time* item of November 7, 1955, can only be described as comical. After the announcement about the Ryan and A. V. Roe (Canada) projects, it continued: "Quarles is well aware that flying-saucer cultists are not easily discouraged. They might still claim that saucer-shaped aircraft built on earth are proof that extra-terrestrial flying saucers, manned by little men from Venus (or Mars), have been infesting the atmosphere. So Quarles released simultaneously a massive 'analysis of reports of unidentified aerial objects.' Called Project Blue Book . . . it is a meticulous study of 4,965 flying-saucer 'sightings.' " *Time* went on to describe the nature of this "meticulous study" of the details of what it chose to call, darkly, " 'sightings,' including those that were reported from mental institutions." (For further information on this "meticulous study" readers are recommended to read Dr. J. Allen Hynek's book *The UFO Experience; A Scientific Enquiry*.)

Did a Frost "saucer" (or a Habermohl one) visit Scotland?

Only seven days later, on the night of November 14, 1955, in lonely Galloway (far South-West of Scotland) Forestry Commission employee Maurice Brazier was driving in his van on a hilly road when the Frost disc came coasting along over the brow of the hill, a few feet off the ground, towards him, and gave him a very near miss. As it passed within twenty yards of him and then banked and veered away, Brazier heard a clicking noise coming from it, "like the clicking of a turnstile," he said.[7]

Clearly a great deal of work had been done on noise abatement since the welkin was shattered by the first flight of the German *V*-7 over Breslau during World War II.

Of what became of all the effort at the secret AVRO-Canada plant we hear no more for a while. I have on my files (but have failed to turn it up in time to check its date) a *Daily Telegraph* news report of the late 1950s or early 1960s from Canada, stating that, according to an official announcement by Mr. Howe, the Canadian Defence Minister at that time, the Frost flying saucer, after a colossal financial outlay, had proved a total flop and the machine had never left the ground. (But the British—and of course the Canadians too—are smart and cunning folk, and, as we shall see later, this communique from Mr. Howe was the misleading statement of the century.)

The Italian books

We come now to the two simply magnificent Italian books which are to be the main theme of this article. The first book, published in 1968, by a writer named Renato Vesco, is **Intercettateli Senza Sparare!: La Vera Storia Dei Dischi Volanti** (*Intercept but do not Shoot!: The True Story of the Flying Saucers*) (Publishers U. Mursia & Co., Milano).

At this point I feel it necessary to confess that, despite many years spent working or travelling in other countries, I am strongly and unrepentantly nationalistic. (Not actually *xenophobic*, at least not as regards all foreigners. I simply have a pronounced tendency—considered excessively reprehensible and evil in these days—to be loyal, and to put my own country first.)

Nevertheless, hard-line chauvinist that I am, I have harboured few illusions of late as to the present-day rating of my countrymen in the world. They have scuttled from the stage of History. Their influence in any sphere—so I had thought—was low. Many of them, I felt, were thoroughly degenerate, selfish, and money grabbing, and not averse to leaving the garbage to pile up in the streets, the old and lonely to die of hypothermia through lack of gas or electricity, and the sick to die in the hospitals through lack of adequate care. *The British lost* 24 *million working-days in* 1972 *through strikes*. I felt that for such a people it was difficult to foresee any sort of rosy future (even inside the "Common Market").

Imagine therefore my delight when, reading Renato Vesco's great book, I discovered the sublime, the awe-inspiring truth about us. He says that it is the British alone who possess all the flying saucers, which have been built, according to that famous design of the Briton John Frost, in that top secret AVRO Canada plant tucked away in the forests of Western Canada.

The Americans—so it now appears—failed with the Frost design. The British and the Canadians alone stuck at it, manfully, and succeeded. All my ideas about the British had been abyssmally wrong.

These smart British, Vesco tells us, may indeed have thrown away their Empire and beaten a shameful and ignominious retreat into insignificance. But this was only because they had bigger and better fish to fry elsewhere. *For, possessed of the monopoly of the Flying Saucers* (*Vesco does not tell us what became of Hitler and Bormann and their saucer*, *nor of what became of all the Russian saucers built by Habermohl*) *the British quietly flew off in theirs long ago to both the Moon and Mars*. By the time that Vesco's book appeared (1968) we had already been installed on Mars, with regular bases there, for no less than eight years, and we have established a new British Empire on that planet.

The nation that could not maintain its position in Malaya, Ceylon, India, Aden, Cyprus, Suez, Malta, Zanzibar, or any shred of Africa, who cannot control Anguilla or Bermuda or Rhodesia, or even act resolutely and quell a war instigated by aliens in part of its own home territory, Ulster, are the Over-Lords of Mars!

Overcoming my incorrigible chauvinism, I am obliged to raise my hat to Signor Renato Vesco, who has certainly "made my day" for me. He has done us all proud. He has restored my sense of Imperial Destiny. Kipling, thou shouldst be living at this hour! Whoever would have thought that little, wizened, shrivelled old Britannia could have had it in her to turn out such a "dark horse" after all![8]

(And I used at one time to envy the Italians for having produced Machiavelli—a rather sad and tatty little figure as we now see, when we measure him against the Sons of *Albion Perfide*.)

I have not yet seen Signor Vesco's second book, **I Velivoli Del Mistero** (*The Mystery Aircraft*), but certainly look forward to reading it if it is anywhere near as encouraging as the first. I have however recently received from his publishers his third volume, **Operazione Plenilunio** (*Operation Full-Moon*) (Mursia, Milano, 1972), in which he repeats his thesis that the British are the true Masters in the Space-Race,[9] and that the poor Americans and Russians, with their miserable, puny rockets, are simply nowhere. He says the British made their first landing on the Moon in 1951 and, using their Lunar base as the jumping-off point, have been running regular convoys of "space-craft" to Mars all through the decade 1958-1968.

No wonder the British recently pulled out of the European Space Programme, ELDO.

Notes

1 Although I had a hand in producing this translation, my name was not associated with the item, as I was a servant of the British Government at the time, and working in a somewhat "delicate" area of Whitehall. As a matter of interest I might add that FSR No. 3 contained a total of three translations sent in by me. The other two were a report of a UFO sighting over Russia on June 30, 1954, and a report of another sighting over Yugoslavia on October 25, 1954. Both the others are on page 7. Together with the Croatian story of the German discs, they constitute my first material in FSR.

2/3 It seems at first sight that the Croats not only got his first name wrong, but were in error in thinking that Coanda was a Romanian, for he was a Frenchman. However the Romanians themselves must know the answer to that, and I notice from the new UFO book (in Romanian) by our friend Florin Gheorghita, *O.Z.N.: O Problema Moderna* (pub. Editura Junimea, 1973) that he gives the full name as Henri Coanda. From which I think we can safely conclude that this pioneer was indeed a Romanian, probably domiciled (or naturalised) in France. (I hope to say something on another occasion about Gheorghita's book, which is excellent, and contains much valuable material unknown in the West. Monsieur Gheorghita informs me that it is already completely sold out.)

4/5 In *The Humanoids*, Ed. Charles Bowen. (Neville Spearman, London, 1969.)

6 See "Have Confusing Shapes Flown Already?" on page 10 of FSR for January/February 1956 on this editorial from the *N.Y. Herald-Tribune*.

7 See *Scots Get Close-Up of UFO* (FSR, November/December 1955, p. 3), and *Maurice Brazier Describes His Saucer* (FSR, January/February 1956, p. 8).

8 It is my earnest hope that these salutary revelations about the reality of British Power will be taken to heart not only by the outclassed Americans and Russians, *but also by our ancient adversaries the French*. British chauvinism is very good and uplifting, but Gallic chauvinism is most unpleasant. In his letters to us over recent years, Aimé Michel has frequently succumbed to the temptation to make disagreeable references to the exploits of such individuals as Duke William of Normandy and Napoleon Bonaparte. Napoleon (in any case an *Italian*) did not succeed against us. As for William of Normandy, he was of course not a real Frenchman either, but a *Viking* (i.e. a sort of honorary Englishman), so that being beaten by him was O.K. anyway. In any case, one trusts that Signor Vesco's timely revelations will put paid, once and for all time, to innuendos of this kind from the French who—so we may hope—will now recognise who is Top Dog, and will stop throwing their weight about in the Common Market, stop expecting us to speak or understand French, etc., etc.

The Germans too will have to take a back seat, despite all their hard work. For even if, as they claim, they did indeed invent the flying saucer, it is now patently obvious to all that we are the only ones who have made anything of it, since we have got to Mars with it.

(But—who knows—maybe we have even gone much further than that by now? In the 19th century we painted the map red with the far-flung territories of the British Empire. If that indefatigable astronomer (and ardent right-wing patriot) Patrick Moore, peering through his telescopes down at Selsey Bill, discovers one of these nights that the *Great Red Spot on Jupiter* has expanded miraculously, I for one shall greet the news with unconcealed satisfaction but little surprise.)

The fact that many people claim to have seen *dwarfs* and *goblins* emerging from landed flying saucers really constitutes no problem. The answer is in fact simple. There are several excellent reasons why the British "back-room boys and boffins" should have been so hard at work over the past twenty-five years on the genetic engineering necessary for the production of diminutive aircrews for the Royal Air Force. Obviously, such little chaps will stand the G-stress far better. Secondly, they occupy far less room on the long flights to Mars, Jupiter, and points beyond. And, thirdly, since we are now rapidly coming, on our own planet, to the time when mass-starvation will be widespread, what better contribution could Science make than this vital research aimed at reducing the amount of food the human body requires?

There remains what some might think the difficult problem of the *giant entities* that some witnesses claim to have seen near landed discs of the Royal Air Force. I have given careful thought to this point, and I think the explanation is again simple. My view is that these cases of gigantism among our aircrews are simply a few of the experimental types of new chaps in whom things have gone a bit wrong, no doubt because the scientists had not got the formula quite right. (There have indeed been far fewer reports of such "UFO giants" lately, which is, I submit, a clear indication that our scientists have now got the mixture right, and are winning the battle to produce the desired sort of standard pumpkinheads.)

POSTSCRIPT No sooner had I completed this article than I discovered among my files an A.P. report of October 20, 1954, from Milano, which strongly suggests that we shall have to divest Signor Vesco of some of the credit for his remarkable revelations about the British and their saucers.

For this report (written while the Frost saucer was still on the drawing board), quoted *another Italian*, the noted airman Signor Maner Lualdi, as saying: "If I had to bet on the origin of the saucers, I would say they are British."

It certainly looks as though the Italians have a special penchant for discovering the truth about us.

EDITOR'S COMMENT ON THE REVELATIONS ABOUT THE CUNNING BRITISH

IT'S all very well for Mr. Creighton to get all cocky about these revelations of British prowess, but I can foresee no end to the unpleasant repercussions arising therefrom. Inevitably the questions will be asked: "By what right did you British land one of your contraptions in N.E. France and scare the innards out of M. Marius Dewilde? What possessed you to violate French territorial rights, air space and 'n'th-dimensional space close to sacrosanct military areas, merely to land on M. Masse's lavender field and muck about with his plants (*and* with M. Masse?)? What prompted you to abduct peaceful American citizens in the New England backwoods and subject them to kinky physical examinations? Why on earth did you land in a remote Brazilian field and kidnap Senhor Villas Boas for immoral purposes?"—etc., etc.

C.B.

THE E.T. CONCEPT IN HISTORY—(*Continued from page* 15)

"Here as elsewhere, the nature of the airship is not known, but if it comes from Mars or any other planet we hope it has brought sufficient 'atmosphere' of its own to exist until it reaches terra firma or gets near enough to be photographed."

Other newspapers of the period, such as the Kalamazoo, Michigan, *Telegraph* and the Memphis, Tennessee, *Commercial-Appeal*, considered the possibility of Martian visitors, but rejected the notion.

Even E. E. Haydon, the cotton buyer/writer of Aurora, Texas, was sufficiently impressed with the Martian hypothesis to incorporate it into his now-famous "crashed airship" hoax.

We have seen that the concept of extraterrestrial visitors was not foreign to pre-1900 thought, whether or not that concept was a valid one.

The airship/UFO subject is so complex that no "easy" answers are possible. Gordon Creighton's concept of the "Gentry," like Keel's "ultraterrestrials" and the late Ivan T. Sanderson's "OINTS," should be carefully considered. It seems likely that something of this nature *is* responsible for a portion of the total UFO phenomena. At the same time, it would be folly to completely reject the E.T. theory, whether one conceives such visitations to be "conventional" in character (Point A to Point B in X amount of time) or of an extra-dimensional nature.

The dramatic photos beamed back to Earth by the Mariner 9 spacecraft in orbit around Mars have given some of us cause to wonder anew about possible life on that ruddy sphere. Certain Martian features seem a bit too "regular" to be explained in terms of geological processes. Could it be that the bold speculators of the airship age might have been right?

Notes

1. Creighton, Gordon: "More News on Aladino Felix—Alias Dino Kraspedon," *Flying Saucer Review*, July/August 1972, pp. 27-28.
2. Vallée, Jacques: *Anatomy of a Phenomenon* (revised edition), Ace Books, New York, N.Y., 1965. Chapter 5, "Flying Saucers and Human Reason" ("'Contactees' and 'Martians' in History"), pp. 172-175.
3. Davidson, Gustav: *A Dictionary of Angels*, Crowell Collier and Macmillan, New York, N.Y., 1967.
4. Coe, Albert: *The Shocking Truth*, The Book Fund, Beverly, New Jersey, 1969.

ANOTHER LOOK AT THE MOON AND MARS

A solution to one of the most remarkable puzzles of modern times?

Kenneth C. Bayman

Our contributor is a member of that small and helpful band of loyal FSR readers who live in South Africa.

IN the May/June 1966 issue of the *Flying Saucer Review*, Antonio Ribera and José M. Oliver wrote: 'It was quite a shock for the scientific world at large to look at the photographs of Mars sent by the space probe Mariner IV and note the great similarity they presented with the surface of the moon . . . A photograph of the lunar region of Clavius, compared with the No. 11 photograph of Mars by Mariner IV had in store for us one of the biggest surprises in our lives: at first sight, the similarities between both photographs were extraordinary. Shown to a layman, he dubbed them photographs of the same region unhesitatingly."[1]

The above-mentioned two writers describe in their article how they made orthographic projections of certain of the photographs in order to compare them on the same basis. They then numbered the Mars features and gave letters of the alphabet to the corresponding moon features and drew up a Table of Comparisons which revealed more than a 50% similarity between *all* the features examined.

The similarity between the larger features of the two regions is so extraordinary that it strikes the eye immediately, yet it is even more remarkable that as many as 30 of the remaining smaller features should also show great similarity in the two photographs.

Antonio Ribera and José Oliver ask: "What are the odds against so many similarities occurring?" They then "developed the problem logarithmically," and arrived at the conclusion that there could be only one chance in 2,128 (followed by 53 zeroes) of these similarities occurring purely by chance. They add: "This figure amounts to infinity, for all practical purposes . . . As demonstrated by the probabilities calculation, this is not only curious but to all intents and purposes impossible. How can astronomers explain these—to say the least—surprising similarities? It's up to them to answer. But . . . does this answer lie in mere topographical similarities? We strongly suspect that this is not the case."

As far as the present writer knows, astronomers have made no attempt to explain the remarkable "coincidence" of two regions on two different celestial bodies having such a remarkable similarity of topographical features.

Not only are there such similarities as between the moon and Mars, however, but there is at least one region of the earth's surface which has its counterpart on the lunar surface, although in this particular case the number of similarities is not so considerable. Nevertheless, the similarities are so close as to constitute an equally striking "coincidence." These "similarities between volcanic features" on the moon and the earth have reference to pictures taken by Lunar Orbiter 5 over the Marius Hills as compared with radar images of features in an Arizona volcanic field.[2]

Strangely enough, however, a writer who is not an astronomer but a geographer, has made certain suggestions (following on the work of others, notably Velikovsky) which provide a reasonable answer to the problem of topographical similarities on the lunar and Martian surfaces. Perhaps the most notable thing about this suggested answer is that *it was proposed before the problem itself was revealed.* As far as is known, the writer of the book in question (which was first published in the U.S.A. in the same year that the above-mentioned article appeared in the FSR) was not even aware—at the time he wrote his book—of the remarkable similarity of topographical features in the two regions of the moon and Mars respectively. Yet in his book he gives a full and adequate explanation for those similarities.

In his book, **The Biblical Flood and the Ice Epoch,**[3] Mr. Donald W. Patten argues very convincingly for a close approach of the planet Mars to the Earth and Moon system during the 8th century B.C. (as well as on certain earlier occasions). This occurred at a time when Mars moved in an elliptical orbit which was reorganised due to the effect of earth's gravity, resulting in the red planet assuming its present more circular orbit.

The point it is desired to make in this present article is that Mars approached close enough to the Earth-Moon system for interchanges of gravitational effects and electrical discharges to take place. Among other results, the present-day "topographical features" on the surfaces of the Moon and Mars were formed or modified. Thus, if the Clavius region of the moon and the Martian region showing such striking similarities to it, happened to be the "facing surfaces" at close approach, the vast electrical discharges interacting between these two charged bodies would naturally tend to produce similar physical features or patterns at the

(*Continued on page* 29)

ARE UFOs "FLYING" LASER GENERATORS?

Bernard E. Finch, MRCS, LRCP, DCh, FBIS

Dr. Finch, who has been associated with FSR since its earliest days, and one of the "team" for many years as consultant on medical questions, speculates in this article on the nature of the motive powers behind the UFOs. No doubt he has one eye on the preponderance of "light," in varied forms, associated with so many reports of UFOs during the last ten years.

LIGHT is a form of radiant energy and consists of electro-magnetic waves and radiations which traverse space. These waves are in the form of collections of energy called *photons*, and it is these that produce effects on the cells of the body, i.e. the eyes and the skin.

The "pressure" of light can be demonstrated in a variety of ways. The Crookes vacuum bulb is a simple way of showing the effects of the pressure of sunlight (Fig. 1a). When a beam of sunlight impinges on the vanes in the vacuum bulb, the vanes rotate rapidly. In fact, in space, vehicles could be fitted with large sails, so that they could be pushed along by the force of the sun's particles streaming out. Another effect of light is to produce an electro-magnetic field along its axis; if a beam of sunlight is passed through a vacuum tube, particles of dust will be seen to rotate round the beam (Fig. 1b).

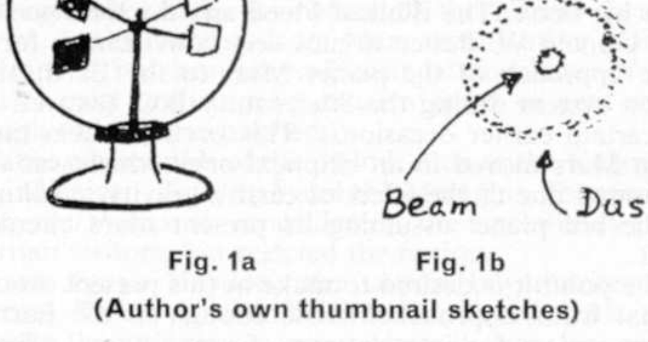


Fig. 1a **Fig. 1b**
(Author's own thumbnail sketches)

The parcels of energy, or photons, can be numerically amplified to produce an intense concentration of particles called a laser beam. Recently, a beam of laser light has been used at Bell Laboratories to raise small transparent glass spheres off a glass surface and hold them aloft for several hours. In the experiment, the Bell scientists focused a laser beam upwards on to a tiny glass sphere 20 microns in diameter (about 1/1000 inch).

The radiation pressure not only counteracted gravity, but also *trapped the sphere in the beam* and prevented it slipping out sideways.

Now this experiment has great implications and is of immense interest to UFO investigation, for here we have a sphere 1/1000 inch in diameter held stationary and aloft by a $\frac{1}{4}$-watt laser beam. For photons have momentum as well as energy, and by focusing the beam the small force exerted is sufficient to lift the sphere off the surface and suspend it. Now by simple arithmetic, a 1-watt beam would support a 1/250-inch-diameter sphere. Therefore a beam of 250 watts would support a sphere 1 inch in diameter; one of 3,000 watts would elevate a sphere 1 foot in diameter, while a 30,000 watt laser beam would elevate a sphere 10 feet in diameter. This 10-foot sphere would correspond to a disc 20 feet across, or more. Now, if the laser apparatus could be miniaturised and incorporated in the disc, by focusing the beam downwards the disc could be held stationary above the ground.

But quite recently it has been shown (*New Scientist*, June, 1972) that a focussed laser beam will produce exceedingly energetic ions at the focus, in a mixture of gases, i.e. the air.

In a beam of 10^{10} watts per square centimetre there is intense ionisation with ions, electrons and neutral atoms flying outwards with energies of from several hundred to a few thousand volts. Increasing the beam, of course, increases the intense "electrical wind." So here we have two processes: elevation due to photon energies, and ionisation of the air with explosive velocities of the kinetic energy of electrons, ions and neutral atoms. There is an overall gain in kinetic energies due to three particle reactions involving electrons, ions and atoms.

By applying these facts to UFO observations, we come up with some interesting conclusions. Is the UFO a flying laser generator? We see the disc hovering when the beam is diverging (Fig. 2a) and travelling at speed when the beam is focused (Fig. 2b). "Pulsing" the laser beam would tend to make the disc rise and fall in its motion; this has also been observed.

The properties of the ionised air are interesting. Note the chemical reactions, the effect on paint and on the skin, the visible effects of air glow and "earthing," the variable burnt areas on the ground, and the "wind effect" in close proximity.

Fig. 2a

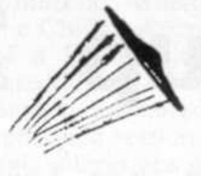


Fig. 2b

A "flying laser generator" must have stability, and this is produced by rotating the disc, producing a gyroscopic effect.

What is the motive power, one wonders, which produces these effects? One can only surmise that a form of electrostatic motor is used whereby differences of potential are drawn in from the atmosphere to produce the energy of rotation, or alternatively some form of electro-chemical battery could be utilised to energise the lasers.

Laser light is produced by solid or gas amplifiers. A common amplifier is the ruby crystal. In addition, light can be transmitted along "glass-fibre" wires, just as electrons can be transmitted along metallic wires.

Here we can speculate that the UFOs might be of crystalline construction, i.e. flying lasers, using photons as we use electrons, and crystalline wires as we use metallic wires. For this we could coin the word *photonics* (viz. electronics) and, as electromagnetic fields are produced around a wire carrying an electric current, so a similar field could be produced around a drawn-out crystalline fibre. We can now speculate still further—and I visualise motors, dynamos and circuits all made of crystalline fibres.

Returning to fact, we know, from many observations, that the motive power could be "pulsed," and we know the associated magnetic field also may be pulsed: witnesses have observed focussing of the beams, the effect of the beams on the ground and the air, the colour changes, and the electrostatic fields. Surely, we must now accept this hypothesis and consider it with others already proposed in the investigation of the UFO phenomenon.

Among the effects of saucers there are many cases where witnesses have experienced heat, sometimes great heat, especially during the "taking off" phase. This is typical of lasers which may not be completely in focus. Similarly, soil has been found burned *below* the surface, where a laser may perhaps have been focussed. Colour changes have been noticed which would correspond to the stepping up of a laser frequency.

When a laser beam is directed into the air and is brought to a focus, an artificial ball lightning (hot plasma) may be formed. Plasma, we know, would be attracted to a magnetic field, hence it would follow the saucer or be attracted to (e.g.) power cables (Aveyron ?).

For many years, there has been a dream of harnessing fusion power, i.e. the energy derived from joinings atom together. But recently, advances in laser technology indicate that fusion reactions induced by high energy lasers might be a possibility.

In the universe, fusion of hydrogen atoms to form heavier elements takes place inside the stars at densities 1,000 times that of water and pressures of 10^{11} atmospheres. These conditions could not be reproduced on earth, but by using laser beams, it is possible to mimic celestial conditions as close as possible. A pellet of deuterium (from heavy water) is blasted by intense bursts of laser light which raise its temperature 100 million degrees; the combined shock wave causes intense compression and the density and high temperature is sufficient to induce a fusion reaction.

Is it possible that this mechanism is associated with the power drive in the UFO, resulting in considerable bursts of fusion energy?

To sum up, we can postulate a UFO powered by intense laser beams and discharges of fusion energy, stabilised by a rotating element (wheel or disc), with the energy for the lasers being provided by an electrostatic energy from the surroundings, or from chemical cells.

ANOTHER LOOK AT THE MOON AND MARS

(*Continued from page* 27)

respective points of discharge or contact (i.e., electrical contact). Similarly, gravitational effects producing a seismic upheaval would tend to create fissures or cones of near identical pattern on both facing surfaces.

Such an encounter of spatial bodies explains in a simple and satisfactory manner the reason for the observed similarity between the Clavius region of the moon and its counterpart on the surface of Mars.

Thus Antonio Ribera and José Oliver were more right than they knew, when they concluded: "Does this answer lie in mere topographical similarities? We strongly suspect that this is not the case." For the answer does not at all lie in "mere topographical similarities." On the contrary, the answer lies deeper, namely in the cause of those topographical similarities—an astronomical phenomenon which moulded them both *at one and the same time*.

The respective photographs of the moon and Mars mentioned at the beginning of this article form a striking and entirely unanticipated confirmation of the views set forth so clearly by Donald W. Patten in his remarkable book, which deserves a wide circulation among thinking people. At the very least, the strange similarity which is the subject of this article is strong circumstantial evidence in favour of Mr. Patten's thesis.

Notes

1 Page 9, FSR, May/June 1966 issue.
2 Page 13, "This Island Earth," a NASA publication.
3 Published 1966 by Pacific Meridian Publishing Co., 9533 Meridian Avenue North, Seattle, Washington 98103, U.S.A.

World round-up of news and comment about recent sightings

ENGLAND

Luminous wheel near Hengistbury Head

Graham Wye of Poole, Dorset, sent us an intriguing report from the *Bournemouth Evening Echo* of February 12, 1973. The sighting was made in the early hours of February 11, 1973, by Mr. Carl Whiteley, a staff reporter on that newspaper. This is his account:

"This is a story I have been waiting to write since first I heard of flying saucers . . .

"For 45 breath-taking minutes early yesterday I watched a mysterious disc-shaped object travelling across the clear, moonlit sky.

"It was like a huge luminous wheel and it moved silently, slowly on its end in a straight line from west to south. As it came closer it appeared to be rotating.

"I was on auxiliary coast guard duty in the look-out hut on Hengistbury Head. Visibility was exceptionally good. With the powerful binoculars I could pick out cars across the bay at Swanage. So I pointed the lenses towards the westerly sky to view the stars.

"Through the mass of twinkling lights emerged a moving light high over the Purbecks. At first it gave the impression of a luminous tube. But as it moved southwards its circular shape became apparent.

"It was not an aircraft and it could not have been a cloud or weather balloon for it later returned westward against the wind, banking at an angle as it disappeared.

"The experience was uncanny, perhaps haunting. The UFO was like a phantom gliding through the night sky.

"Over the years I have reported other people's sightings . . . but this was my own observation! And auxiliary coastguard colleague, Mike Parker, well known fisherman of Gentle Calm, Mudeford Quay, was my witness. He, too, saw the mystery object.

"Some 20 years ago Mike and his brother, Charles, saw a cigar-shaped object in the sky while night fishing at Mudeford.

"The flying disc was not visible to the naked eye. It must have been at a vast height and being so high one can assume it was of great size."

Flying 'Polo-mint'

Mr. Wye included another cutting from the *Bournemouth Evening Echo* with the one given above. Unfortunately no date was given for it, but as it mentions the sighting of a disc-shaped object with a hole in it there may be a connection with Mr. Whiteley's sighting, and therefore worth quoting:

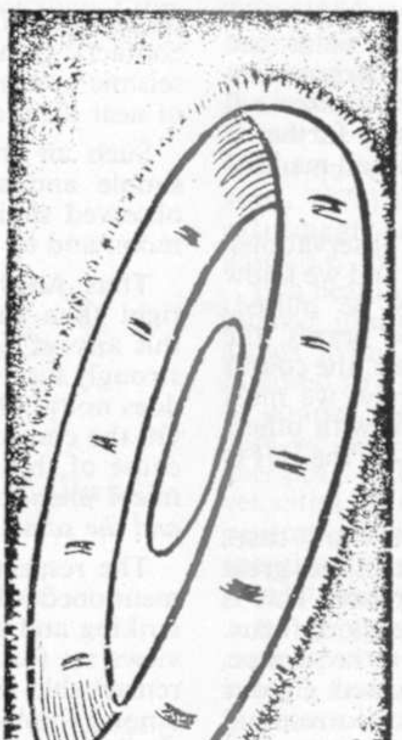
"Strange lights in the sky have again been spotted by youngsters from Ferndown Common. A group of Scouts leaving their Scout hut at about 10 p.m. watched four lights hover close together for about a minute, descend slowly out of sight and then rise again.

" 'At first there were three lights and then a fourth joined them,' said one of the youngsters.

"About four weeks ago a mysterious object, said to look like a flying 'Polo' mint, was seen by Scouts on the common."

'Saucer' with dome and 'portholes'

We wrote to Mr. Whiteley, hoping he might be able to tell us the date of the Boy Scouts' sighting. This he wasn't able to do as he did not write that particular report, but he told us about an equally interesting sighting he made a week later, and which was not published in the newspaper:



Looking like an enormous luminous wheel—an artist's impression of what reporter Carl Whiteley saw

"On the following Saturday evening, February 17, 1973, at about 7.45 p.m. I saw an even more convincing sight. I had my binoculars on another "luminous wheel" coming over from the West, over the sea, when suddenly I was aware of an orange coloured movement. It seemed to come from the wheel. I fixed the binoculars on the orange object and it was clearly the shape of a flying saucer complete with dome and what appeared to be portholes. The bottom section—the circular section below the dome—appeared to rotate. It hovered, then moved slightly upwards and finally disappeared out of sight. I observed the object for about six or seven seconds. It was unbelievable. This was not witnessed by anyone else with me. But I am sure of what I saw. I checked for reflections but could find none. The same evening, a little later, I saw a similar object for about two seconds as it came into my vision while I was peering at the night sky.

"I did not report this in my paper. Too many sightings—particularly one like this—by a newspaper reporter could perhaps have resulted in a discredit by those who shut their eyes to UFOs.

"The UFO, by the way, would have been about a quarter the size of the full moon, looking at the moon with the naked eye. I was viewing the object through binoculars of a 124 magnification."

* * *

Mr. Whiteley tells us in his letter that he has been watching the night sky, as an auxiliary coastguard, for 15 years. During that time he has seen many strange lights, but has not written about them because he felt they could have been accounted for—though on each occasion his interest was aroused. But the sightings of February 11 and 17 were different and convinced him that UFOs are at large.

EILEEN BUCKLE.

UFO up before the "beak"

From the *Ashbourne News Telegraph* (Notts) of November 2, 1972, we learn that a mystery object appeared before a local magistrate—

"An exceptionally bright object was seen by Ashbourne magistrate Mrs. M. R. H. Sadler, of 2, Coachmans Close, Ashbourne, as she was driving

down Green Lane towards Clifton last week.

"She pointed this out to a passenger in her car, Mrs. A. Hughes of Mayfield Road, as they were travelling to the Clifton Smith Hall at about 6.55 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24th.

"The object, which was at an angle of about 45 degrees from ground level and moving at what seemed to be a fairly fast speed, was first thought by Mrs. Sadler to be the planet Venus but when the two women arrived in Clifton Mrs. Hughes noticed the object had appeared to stop above a group of trees in the village and again they examined it, this time more closely.

"Mrs. Sadler told the 'Ashbourne News Telegraph' that although it was possible to imagine spikes sticking out of the sides of the object and a fluctuating emission of light she was certain that it had been moving and then stopped—a fact that was borne out by the object's relative position to a telegraph pole.

"It was this changing of motion that had aroused her interest and along with other women at Clifton Smith Hall that evening kept an eye on the 'saucer.'

"Keeping note of its position in the sky, Mrs. Sadler found the object almost stationary until about 7.40 p.m. when it sank slowly to disappear from view after dipping behind a tree.

"The ladies would be interested to hear if anyone else witnessed this unidentified flying object."

ANTARCTICA

Officially observed UFOs

The following item is taken from the newspaper *Cronica*, of Santiago de Chile, for May 19, 1972—

"A UFO has been observed on two occasions in the Antarctic by officers of the Chilian Air Force and the Army, it was officially announced here.

"According to the bulletin released by the Air Force, the UFO had been seen on Saturday [*May* 13, 1972] in the Antarctic for about 15 minutes, towards the South West, in a stationary position with a 15° inclination. Its luminosity was three times greater than that of a star and varied from red to green and to a greyish blue. The report states that no noticeable alterations were observed in the radio system, but that in the 3,200 kilocycles waveband the signals were weaker due to the presence of the UFO. However, communication with the continent was not interrupted.

"The sighting took place on a clear moonlit night without wind, but the officers could not take a photograph of the object. This sighting coincided with another which took place on May 8 at the Military Base of the Antarctic, where seven members of the Chilian Army watched the passing of a UFO going in a north-easterly direction. The reports despatched to Santiago declared that while the object remained stationary there were noticeable alterations in the radio communications."

Credit to **Miss E. Greinert,** Buenos Aires, Argentina who also sent a translation.

ARGENTINA

Mar del Plato UFO

This report is taken from *La Razón* of May 2, 1971—

"Last night at about 9.00 p.m., Armando Lenzi and his family were walking by the seaside when their attention was called to an intensely luminous object over the coast. This unknown object of elliptical shape remained stationary over the same spot for several minutes, and its very strong light caused many of the occasional passers-by and residents of the street along the coast and of Pueyrredon to join Lenzi and observe it. After this time, the light started to change from a violent red to blue, after which it moved with unusual speed towards the west, making a half circle before disappearing into the darkness of the horizon. 'A flying saucer,' said the many witnesses of this occurrence.

"Later it was learned that a cameraman of a Buenos Aires television channel had been able to film this happening, so that if the filming has been successful, it will be possible to see clearly the characteristics of this object.

"It is not the first time that flying saucers or UFOs have appeared over the Pearl of the Atlantic (*Mar del Plata*]. On July 11, 1968, a flying saucer was seen zig-zagging from west to east from the control tower of the local airport. On the same day, at the intersection of the Maritime Boulevard and Avenida Luro, several witnesses observed three UFOs with extraordinary lights making strange manoeuvres. In August of the same year, four persons travelling by car near this city saw two luminous points on the road, and on coming nearer found that they were two objects with the shape of soup plates joined together; after a few minutes they disappeared at great speed."

Credit: **Miss Edith Greinert,** who also provided a translation, and who writes:

"*The film taken in Mar del Plata was subsequently shown on television—one could see a very bright round light moving over the city lights, but due to the intense light no shape of any object was visible.*"

"Mother ship" seen by pilots

From the columns of *La Razón* for February 9, 1972, comes the following report—

"The pilot and co-pilot of the plane AVRO 748-LV-IEE, of Aerolineas Argentinas, were on a freight-flight from Catamarca to Buenos Aires with a stop at Córdoba. On arrival at the metropolitan airport, they reported that while flying between San Nicolas and Ramallo, they saw in front of them a strong light in the shape of a UFO 'mother-ship.'

"Cayetano Trigo, with 27 years of flying experience, and Alberto Parcampo, with 9 years of flying experience, stated that the strange object accompanied them for 5 minutes while changing colour from yellow to red and then to a greenish blue—always very bright. This fact was later confirmed by the meteorological observatory of Mar del Plata, situated at the military base. Moreover, several people walking along the promenade at midnight saw the strange light which flew horizontally from south to east."

Credit to **Miss E. Greinert,** and thanks for the translation.

VENEZUELA

MIB in a sports car!

Here is an old report which has come to us from Argentina (see note below)—

"A Spanish physician, Dr. Guillermo Arguelles de la Motta, a resident of Madrid, relates in a letter to the local evening paper *El Mundo*, the experience he had while visiting Dr. Antonio Arocha at the latter's country house near the town of San Juan de los Morros, 145 Kms. to the east of Caracas.

"At 6.00 p.m. he was in the company of his host and family, when suddenly they saw two men dressed in black (*curious detail*), with red ties and dark glasses, alight from a brand new vermillion *Mustang* about 500 m. from the house. The gentlemen waited for about five minutes, then fastened orange-coloured belts around their waists, while talking quietly to each other. All of a sudden there appeared a brilliant object in the sky which rapidly descended to within 60 cms. of the ground. It was bell-shaped in the lower part and had a tower on the upper part of the bell. It was about 30 metres in diameter. But what surprised them most was its rapid change of colour: from light orange to blue and then to white. As it became stationary it gyrated at nearly 180°. Then a tiny ladder, parabolic in shape, was lowered from the base, which allowed the two gentlemen from the *Mustang* to go

(*continued on page iii*)

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Capt. Ivar Mackay on Demons

Dear Sir,—May I say how much I enjoyed reading Aimé Michel's fine contribution "Of Gods, Genii, Heroes and Entities," so ably translated by Mr. Gordon Creighton, in your March/April 1973 issue. I was, however, a little apprehensive of your reader's reception of it due to the unfortunate use of the word "demon" which was consistently used throughout the article. Michel's apologia for using this word, I feel, is insufficient to still the qualms of those readers who might be unversed in the philosophic and theosophic terms of those times.

Both the Greek δαῖμόνῖα, more usually and accurately rendered, *daimones*, and the Roman, *daemon*, are synonymous, and translated mean: inferior race of divine beings; spirits holding a middle place between gods and men; a guardian spirit. Nevertheless *daimones*, as G. R. S. Mead points out, ". . . may be good or bad; they are not necessarily bad like the demons of the Christians."

The early Christian Fathers owed much of their basic philosophy and metaphysic to the Kabalists, Platonists, Pythagoreans, Neo-Platonists, *et al.*, and they naturally discarded those concepts which they found to be incompatible with their own. Consequently the poor *daimones* were subtly linked with the entities inhabiting those regions dominated by the Devil (the god of Saturn suffered much the same indignity when he became associated with Lucifer). It is thus, though in fact the process is far more complex, that through conformation to Christian dogma, inaccurate translation of the Greek New Testament sources and illiterate public usage, a *demon* has become associated, in the minds of the masses, with evil.

There exists a massive body of literature available to anybody wishing to delve further into the exercise set by Aimé Michel. To name but a few—the Corpus Hermeticum, Pistis Sophia, The Celestial Hierarchies of Dionysius the Areopagite, and the invaluable works of G. R. S. Mead on Hellenistic Theosophy, the Gnosis and other teachings, are to be recommended as being relative to the subject.

Incidentally, a slim volume of a new translation of The Golden Verses of Pythagoras was published by the editors of a journal entitled *The Shrine of Wisdom* in 1929; it is, of course, out of print but one might be fortunate in obtaining a copy second-hand.

Yours sincerely,
E. A. I. Mackay,
5 Pitt Street, London W8.
June 14, 1973

Monsters and UFOs at Loch Ness

Dear Sir,—I recently read the January/February copy of FSR with great interest and particularly F. W. Holiday's article concerning "Dragons and UFOs at Loch Ness."

Having read Guy Underwood's accounts of dowsing, particularly the spiral formations occurring with great regularity upon ancient burial sites or stone circles, my attention was caught by the reference Mr. Holiday makes to the findings of the Vickers Submarine *Pisces*, after completing 47 dives in the loch in 1969.

I recall vague newspaper reports confirming a negative result, i.e. no monster, and that seemed to be that. However, this article has revived my interest somewhat.

Is it possible for you to inform me where I might obtain a copy of the "Report" mentioned in the References, at the end of the article—any information would be most welcome.

Yours sincerely,
G. D. Smith,
18 Chapel Lane, Headingley,
Leeds 6, Yorkshire.
April 5, 1973.

Suggested hypotheses

Dear Sir,—I was very pleased to read in your July/August, 1972, issue of FSR an increasing number of objective articles, which include two statistical studies. I gain the impression that UFO societies in other countries, especially the U.S.A., are becoming much more scientific in their approach to research, and have many highly qualified scientists acting as consultants, whereas few British scientists will even read the facts published.

I should like to suggest one or two hypotheses which might be considered by FSR readers who are interested.

1. Most UFOs can emit pulsed radiation which produces an ionised plasma around them. Stephen Pratt and his father at Conisbrough, Yorkshire, on March 28, 1966, saw a bright light moving through the sky, but the photograph they took showed three saucers. If the shutter speed coincided with a shutdown phase of ionisation, it may be possible for anyone to repeat the effect by using a stroboscope with or without a camera. I have experimented with neon and xenon stroboscopic lamps as the flashing source and a slotted disc stroboscope as detector. I was able to change a rate of 2,000 flashes per minute, which appears as a fairly steady light to the unaided eye, into a rate of less than 50 flashes per minute, thus enabling the unlit lampholder to be seen by reflected sunlight. This is simply a suggestion to help to cut down the glare from a UFO if it is extremely bright. However, if a camera is also available the picture could be interesting if taken through the revolving disc.

2. UFOs can cause motor vehicle cut-outs and power drops. These could result from

(a) a drop in atmospheric pressure, or

(b) current leakage due to heavy ionisation of the surrounding air (or battery), or a combination of both. Statistical studies and laboratory tests could help to assess how easily either of these events could occur.

3. The blue glow around UFOs is the Tcherenkov effect, due to the emission of tachyons. This requires much more informed guidance than I can offer. I teach mathematics and I am in a senior post at a comprehensive school, however, my knowledge of physics is insufficient to follow up this last hypothesis.

If anyone has already studied these aspects, it would be interesting to hear of the results. I do feel that the construction of hypotheses and suitable tests to verify them would help our understanding of this phenomenon.

Yours sincerely,
Charles F. Lockwood,
5 The Ridgeway, Farnsfield,
Newark, Notts.
October 30, 1972.

[We apologise for the delay in printing this interesting letter—EDITOR.]

The psychokinesis hypothesis

Dear Sir,—It is difficult to settle on a hypothesis for the origin of UFOs, but I am forced to consider the least implausible one. Extraterrestrials, ultraterrestrials? Not quite. Occam's razor cannot cut away psychokinesis of

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Artwork by Terence Collins

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which *humanity* is the agent. Miles up in the air there could be materialisations produced by the society occupying the ground below. The surface experiences, too, could be psychokinetic phenomena of which contactees themselves are agents. (Psychokinesis of the most fantastic kind is made more plausible after reading about Ted Serios' thoughtography and other spectacular cases in psychical research.)

C. G. Jung (in *Flying Saucers*) and Aniela Jaffé (in *Apparitions and Precognition*) have related flying saucers and apparitions, respectively, to the psyche. Jacques Vallée (in *Passport to Magonia*) has related UFO sightings to folklore. It is now the task of other groups of specialists, such as parapsychologists and sociologists, to work on the relationships between the aspirations and fears of humanity, on one hand, and the characteristics of UFO sightings, on the other, bearing in mind that the sightings are of physically real objects that may be anthropogenic materialisations.

Sincerely yours,

Seymour Newman,
501 West 123 Street,
New York, N.Y. 10027, U.S.A.

June 9, 1973.

WORLD ROUND-UP—(*Continued from page* 31)

aboard calmly and with aplomb. As the ladder was withdrawn, the vehicle slightly inclined to the left and, floating on an inclined trajectory, then shot into the sky at an impressive speed.

"The physician added that it was, of course, no helicopter. It was soundless and of a completely unknown and unconventional shape."

Credit: **Miss Edith Greinert** of Buenos Aires, who provided the translation, and who writes: "*Unfortunately this clipping was handed to me without the name of the newspaper or the date. It is probably from* La Razón *between June and August*, 1971."

IRELAND

UFO, or gas?

This account is taken from *The Irish Times* of May 16, 1973 [*as Skylab is still aloft at time of going to press, we can rule out that explanation*—ED].—

"Between 11 o'clock and midnight last night telephone callers from Malin Head to Shannon Airport anxiously rang both Armagh and Dunsink Observatories (each received almost 50 calls), Dublin Airport and newspaper offices with inquiries about a "large bright stationary object" seen in the northern sky.

"A caller from Kilkenny to *The Irish Times* said: 'At first I thought it was the reflection of a searchlight on cloud, but there is no beam coming up from the ground and it is a fairly cloudless night'. Another caller suggested that it might be the U.S. space-laboratory, Skylab, burning up.

"Nobody could identify the object with any certainty. Dublin Airport traffic control office thought it might be the Aurora Borealis (the Northern Lights). A spokesman at Dunsink Observatory said: 'It may be a cloud of gas very high in the atmosphere being illuminated by the sun'.

"At 12.30 this morning it was still there, as bright, as stationary and as mysterious as ever."

Credit: **Julian Shanahan** of Dublin.

BRAZIL

A smart fire-ball, and other matters

Gordon Creighton writes that the three cases that follow should be read in conjunction with Dr. Walter Buhler's article *More Teleportations and Levitations* in FSR for January/February 1973 as they originate from the same area of Southern Brazil and all have been probed by the energetic investigation groups in that part of the country.

A SMART "FIRE-BALL"

At a place some 2 kms. from Canelinha (State of Santa Catarina, South Brazil) on several successive nights in 1972, dozens of people observed a red "fire-ball" travelling about over the fields near the Morro do Rolador (a hill). It moved along slowly and (so most folk said, silently) at a height of no more than a few metres from the ground, never changing colour, and maintaining its perfectly round shape, "round, like the Moon." Whenever anybody tried to get near it with a weapon in his hand, or accompanied by a dog, it "went out, as though by magic."

One man, Sr. Ilton Dias, was chased by the thing. It was on one of the religious festival days. Dancing was going on in a hall, and in order to prevent the "fire-ball" from getting into the building, the people shut all the windows. The episode was witnessed by the whole crowd of people attending at the hall.

This case, with many others in the same area, was carefully investigated, on the spot, by the members of the GPECE UFO Investigation Group of Curitiba (city in the State of Paraná), and these investigators found, after questioning a great many of the witnesses, that the press-reports had been correct.

Interviewed by the investigators, Sr. Ilton Dias told them that the strange "fire-ball" did make a noise. He said it was accompanied by a rumbling noise like the sound of a truck moving slowly. He said the size of the thing was about the size of a truck-tyre, and he said its luminosity (red) was much greater on the upper portion. He said that the lower side, towards the ground, was less bright. When seen from a distance the thing always looked red, but when it was seen at close quarters it seemed to be bluish.

MORE DWARFS

The following case occurred in the same region as the foregoing at Fernandes, 4 kms. from São Joãs Batista, at 7.30 p.m. on May 19, 1969.

Two women, Dona Aurora and her sister-in-law Clair Mefessoli, were going to a neighbour's house to get some milk. Coming round a bend in the road, 300 metres from their destination, they saw a light coming from behind them and, turning round, saw a luminous object descend almost to the ground and two little men, with features like those of humans, emerge from it.

The women, who ran in terror, said the little beings were about a metre in height. Dona Aurora's father-in-law, who lived close by, arrived on the scene, but by the time he got there the thing had left, she said, and he only saw the light of it.

The women said that the shape of the thing was elongated and that its colour resembled the yellowish light of electric light.

A TASTE FOR SUGAR?

Two weeks before that (first week of May, 1969) a truck was travelling along the road from Tigipió to São João, near Colônia. It was four o'clock in the morning, and the truck was carrying three passengers and a load of sugar cane. For a long time they were accompanied by a strange yellowish light, about 50 cms. wide, which kept sweeping round the truck, at times almost touching the sugar cane, while the truck bowled along at 40 kms. per hour through the night.

* * * * *

These three reports come from Eduardo Santa Maria's series of nine articles on UFOs in the Rio de Janeiro newspaper *O Dia* between October 26 and November 4, 1972. The greater part of the series dealt with the investigations of General Uchoa, published elsewhere, in *FSR Case Histories*—EDITOR.

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